

## Seeing Stars

# Women producers rule

Shows open and close every day in New York City. The struggles of actors and playwrights are well chronicled, but no production happens without a producer attending to every detail. United Stages has observed that this difficult and often unrecognized job has been falling more and more to women. We talked with ten women from nine different independent theater companies about...everything.



Heather Cunningham

*In the theater in general, do you feel there are areas where women have a particular advantage or disadvantage?*

Heather Cunningham, Retro Productions: Unfortunately there are more actresses than parts, which makes the competition stiffer than it is for men. I hate to say it, but there are actors I've seen, whose talent is debatable, who work all the time simply because there are more roles for men.



Stephanie Barton-Farcas

Stephanie Barton-Farcas, Nicu's Spoon: I do feel the USA needs to do more in support of female playwrights—there are very few and there is very little breeding ground for them. I keep telling people the next Sam Shepard may very well be a woman.



Christine Mosère

*Do you feel like being a female producer has any particular advantages or disadvantages?*

Christine Mosère, Woman Seeking...: I think the hardest part for me is letting people down. I think as a woman and a nurturer it is more difficult to just say "this is the way the cookie crumbles this time" and move on when I can't hire or cast someone. I also think it is sometimes harder to be taken seriously when I need something built a certain way or designed a certain way for a show. I wonder if I were a man, would they fight me so hard.



Victoria Venezia

*What does feminism mean to you?*

Victoria Venezia, Victory Theater Productions: I think feminism means being proud to be a woman and believing in yourself not only as a human being but as a woman. It means being enlightened and educated. It means being real.

“It is sometimes harder to be taken seriously when I need something built a certain way or designed a certain way

— Christine Mosère

Written by United Stages' contributing columnist Maggie Cino. For more info and the rest of the interview: [www.unitedstages.com](http://www.unitedstages.com)