

All praise to the small theaters of this country, the ones who still have the courage and the vision to stage new plays. Theaters like Miami's New Theater, led by artists with a clear goal and unshakeable faith, like artistic director Ricky J. Martinez. These are the birthing rooms of American theater, where the future first appears and the effort is made to welcome it into the world. Theirs is exhausting, dangerous, loud, messy, vital work, full of risk and the uncertain promise of any tangible reward.

I have had the honor of doing a couple of my plays at New Theater. I know first-hand the dedication, the effort and the seriousness of purpose Ricky and his team bring to their work. I know how much they accomplish with so little. It may not always be acknowledged or fully appreciated, but New Theater remains an essential resource in the south Florida community, part of what makes life richer, inspiring, more adventurous. They are brave members of a dwindling national group of theaters still willing to do the hard work of bringing new plays to life.

— John Strand