

For Release: Immediately Contact: Raymond Hammond, Editor; 917.843.8825; rhammond@nyq.org  
 Publication Information: 6 x 9 in.; 112 Pages; LCCN: 2015930579; ISBN: 978-1-63045-008-3  
 Publication Date: February 3, 2015 Website: <http://books.nyq.org/author/johnamen>  
 Suggested Retail: 14.95 USD; 15.95 CAN; 8.95 GBR; 10.50 EUR; 14.95 AUS  
 Availability: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Powell's, Small Press Dist. To the Trade: Ingram Distribution, SPD

## NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *strange theater* by John Amen



February 3, 2015 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *strange theater* by John Amen. Amen's *strange theater* takes the reader on a multifaceted journey, each poem a puzzle piece in a mysterious drama, a view onto a stage where dialogues and narratives shuffle and rotate, where characters improvise insights that blur the boundary between horror and the absurd. Offering a unique vision of contemporary life, Amen is a Virgil of sorts, navigating the unknown, plumbing the conscious and unconscious alike. Replete with compelling imagery and frequently shocking proclamations, *strange theater* imprints itself on the psyche, Amen's voice continuing to resound long after the final poem is read.

Bruce Boston, author of *Resonance Dark & Light*

Take intelligence, imagination, insight, and sensitivity, add an accomplished poetic craft and lace liberally with surrealism, and you have some sense of what entering John Amen's *strange theater* is like. Though often dedicated to specific individuals, these poems speak to the individual in all of us. Is Amen getting better with each book, or have I merely forgotten how brilliant he can be?

Arlene Ang, author of *Banned for Life*

John Amen's poems strike a virtuosic balance between adrenaline rush and introspection as they explore the roles and routines that define and, at the same time, obscure who we are.

Bob Holman

If words left trails like comet tails, John Amen's poetry would be connect-the-dot lightning bolts. How obvious it all is, he says, throwing knives at the infinite, if only we had the right glasses. I've never seen such absolute surety about doubt. File this one in "Uneasy Listening."

Maria Mazziotti Gillan, winner of the American Book Award

John Amen's incredible release, *strange theater*, is a perceptive, insightful commentary on the mystery hidden within the ordinary. The poet's voice is, by turns, ironic, humorous, pensive, and mournful. This collection is exquisite, a book to be savored and discussed and treasured.

John Amen is the author of three previous collections of poetry: *Christening the Dancer*, *More of Me Disappears*, and *At the Threshold of Alchemy*. He is co-writer, along with Daniel Y. Harris, of *The New Arcana*, a multi-genre work. In addition, he has released two folk/folk rock CDs: *All I'll Never Need* and *Ridiculous Empire*. He founded and continues to edit *The Pedestal Magazine*.



photo by Thia Chempanise

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.