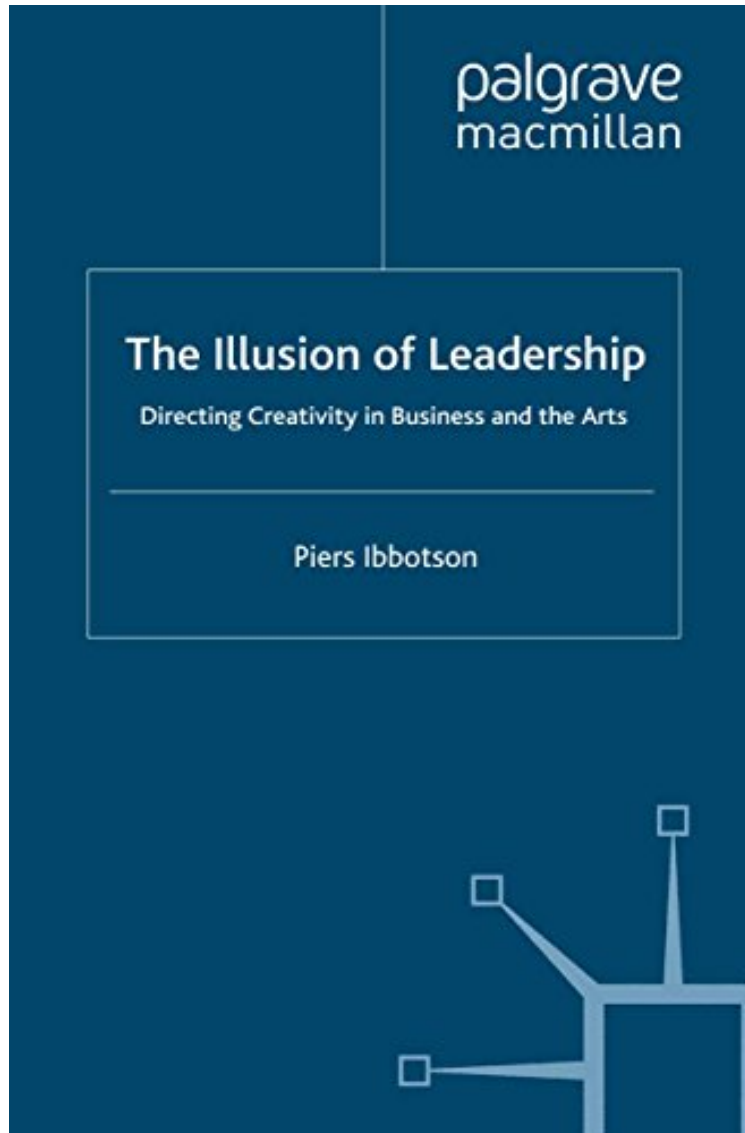


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The Illusion of Leadership: Directing Creativity in Business and the Arts

P. Ibbotson

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy RosieExcellent and fresh perspective.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Artists Should Rule the WorldBy Steven S. TaylorLeadership is often said to be an art. Usually this simply means that it is not a science (despite the best efforts of twentieth century management

scholars). Sometimes the idea of leadership as an art is taken as a metaphor. Perhaps the best metaphor for the business leader is the theater director. The way that a theater director leads others (the cast and designers) to maximize their own creativity and produce a coherent whole is a model for what the business leader would like to do. Enter Piers Ibbotson, a professional actor at the age of twelve and long time director in the Royal Shakespeare Company in England, who has been working with businesses for the last decade drawing upon his background in the theatre to help business learn from the arts. In "The Illusion of Leadership", Ibbotson shares what he has learned and makes a compelling case for what business can learn from the arts in general and theater in particular. If that were all he did in this book, it would be well worth reading. But he goes farther, gradually building a critique of business that he summarizes in the closing chapter "Why Artists Should Rule the World," that makes the case that business leadership should be an art and that we would all be better off if it were.

People need a degree of free choice for creativity and change to happen. But they must also have boundaries. At one level this is what politics and business are all about. Too much of the wrong sort of control and the system becomes bureaucratic or tyrannical, too little and it becomes arbitrary and chaotic.

About the AuthorPIERS IBBOTSON is a respected speaker, coach and facilitator. He is a regular contributor to senior management development programmes in the UK and around the world, introducing leaders and senior managers to concepts and techniques from the creative arts. He has worked at partner level with leading management consultancies and has contributed to senior management development programmes for Ernst and Young, Adidas, WPP group, Severstal, Generali, and many others. He has contributed to courses at the London Business School; The Danish Pedagogical Institute, Copenhagen, the University of Lancaster UK, the University of Nyenrode, Netherlands; AESE, Lisbon, Portugal and The Banff Centre in Canada, where he is guest faculty member on The Art of Executive Leadership Programme. He is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts and is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Kingston, UK, where he teaches on the MA in Creative Industries and The Creative Economy. He also runs Directing Creativity which was developed originally for The Royal Shakespeare Company with the support of Allied Domecq plc. Directing Creativity provides management development, training and consultancy for business, using techniques and approaches from the world of theatre; with the dual objectives of enhancing business performance and developing closer links between industry and the arts. www.directingcreativity.co.ukwww.piersibbotson.co.uk