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REX DEVERELL

BY SELINA COWARD  
FEBRUARY 1, 1990

REVISED  
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BY ELIZABETH SEITZ

## BIOGRAPHY

Today Rex Deverell is styled as a playwright. This was not always so. His early roots are those of a pastor of a small Baptist church in southern Ontario--this resulting from a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster, a Bachelor of Divinity also from McMaster and a Master of Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Drama played an important role even in those days, however, through acting, directing, writing, workshops and stage management of both religious and secular plays.

In 1968 Deverell's "The Invitation" won the Playwrights' Award from the University of Western Ontario. He wrote several plays in the following few years. By 1970 he decided to resign his pastorship and become a playwright. From 1970 to 1975 Deverell and his family lived in Regina and Toronto. This same period also saw the production of such plays as "Sam and the Tigers", "Shortshrift", "Copetown City Kite Crisis" and "Sarah's Play"--all plays for children with the Globe Theatre in Regina. The radio play "The Mule" won the Ohio State Award in 1974. CBC Radio and the Canadian Baptist Overseas Mission Board produced "Verse and Worse" and "Welcomed with Joy" respectively. In 1975 Globe Theatre in Regina, southern Saskatchewan's premiere theatre company, appointed Deverell as Playwright-in-Residence. He held this position until October 1989 when he moved to Toronto. "Boiler Room Suite" was produced in 1976. In 1978 this play won the Canadian Authors' Award. It enjoyed great success, travelling to Vancouver, Toronto and London, England among other cities. "Mandarin Oranges", "Black Powder: Estevan 1931", "Righteousness" and "Mandarin Oranges II" have been considered to be his most successful plays with the Globe.

In 1983 the Canadian Council of Churches commissioned Deverell to produce "Voyage/Voyageur". The 1980s saw "Beyond Batoche" and "The Riel Commission" address the issues of Indigenous peoples and the Riel Rebellion. The latter play won the Major Armstrong Award in 1986. For the visit of the Queen and Prince Phillip to Regina in October 1987 the Saskatchewan government commissioned "Prairie Wind: Seventy Five Years of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly".

Not only has Deverell written plays for various media but also he has served in various provincial and national organizations, including the Playwrights Union of Canada, the Guild of Canadian Playwrights, ACTRA and Saskatchewan Playwrights' Centre.

These papers trace the pastoral and writing careers of Rex Deverell from 1956 to 1989. They cover the personal, financial and professional aspects of his career.

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Mohiddin Mohamed  
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  - Script: Act I, "Rehearsal Draft"
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 "This Too Solid Flesh"  
 Brown, Peter  
 "Grandchildren of Auschwitz"  
 Burns, Cliff  
 "The Legend of John Ware"  
 Butala, Sharon  
 "Element of Fire"  
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 "The Turnout"  
 Crail, Archibald J.  
 "Exile"  
 Culleton, Beatrice  
 "Spirit of the Bison"  
 Dalgetty, Alexina  
 "Sammy & Peg & Bert & Peggie: Something  
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 Gordon, Dane R.  
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 Hamilton School Theatre Company  
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 Kane, Margo  
 "Surviving"  
 Kerr, Don  
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 "The Legacy" Episode  
 Writers' Guideline 1984 Production  
 Season  
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 N.B. See also: Professional Associations  
 ACTRA Awards file

"The Death of Gods"  
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     "Criminal Justice"  
     "The Freedom Diary of Lan Tran"  
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 "Inviting the Grandfather"  
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 N.B. See also: Professional Associations  
     ACTRA Awards file  
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#### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

Acting Career  
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 Canadian Copyright Institute  
 Children's Theatre  
 Conferences/Workshops  
     Conferences/Workshops  
     Correspondence: 1977-86  
     Academy of Canadian Writers  
     Alberta Theatre Projects  
     Birmingham Children's Theatre  
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     Easter Drama Workshop  
     Play Development Workshop  
     Seminar for Playwrights  
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 Noah Project  
 Prairie Poets, Prairie Playwrights,  
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     Readings and Conversations  
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Theatre for Young Audiences in English Canada  
 Theatre in Process  
 Vancouver Young People's Theatre  
 Festival  
 Writers' Experimental Workshop  
 Deverell System of Computer assisted Instant Plays  
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 Drama Education  
 Drama Education  
 Drama Education: Saskatchewan  
 Five Playwrights/Five Perspectives  
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 Regina Plains Community College. "Myself,  
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 Speeches, Addresses, etc.  
 Estevan University Women's Club  
 Manitoba Artists in the Schools  
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 Regina Roman Catholic School Division  
 Study of Youth Health and Lifestyles  
 University Extension. Spanish Class  
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#### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Professional Associations  
 Alternate Catalogue Company  
 Amnesty International Artists Network  
 Arts Congress Steering Committee  
 Association of Canadian Television and Radio  
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 Section  
 Correspondence: 1979-80, 1988  
 Fraternal Benefit Society  
 Free Trade Speakers Bureau

- Box 42 Saskatchewan Branch Council  
 Canada Council  
 Correspondence: 1970-88  
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 Canadian Child and Youth Drama Association  
 Carling Community Arts Foundation  
 The Dramatists Guild Inc.  
 Constitution  
 Guild of Canadian Playwrights  
 Guild of Canadian Playwrights 1977-85  
 Guild of Canadian Playwrights 1980-85  
 Annual Meeting. Minutes and Agendas  
 Correspondence: 1977-84  
 Executive Committee. Minutes and Agendas  
 National Council. Minutes and Agendas  
 Newsletters  
 Regional Meetings
- Box 43 International Amateur Theatre Association  
 International Association of Playwrights  
 Playwrights Canada  
 Playwrights Canada  
 Correspondence: 1981-85  
 Minutes and Agendas  
 Newsletters  
 Playwrights Canada/Guild of Canadian  
 Playwrights Merger. Steering Committee  
 Playwrights Co-op  
 Playwrights Co-op  
 Correspondence: 1973-78  
 Minutes and Agendas  
 Newsletters  
 Playwrights Union of Canada  
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 Correspondence: 1977-89  
 Executive Committee  
 Minutes and Agendas
- Box 44 Minutes and Agendas  
 National Council  
 Minutes and Agendas  
 Professional Association of Canadian  
 Theatres (PACT)/Playwrights Union of  
 Canada (PUC) Committee  
 Minutes and Agendas  
 Steering Committee  
 Correspondence: 1983-84  
 Minutes and Agendas  
 Professional Association of Canadian  
 Theatres (PACT)/Playwrights Union of Canada  
 (PUC) Liaison Committee  
 Professional Association of Canadian  
 Theatres (PACT)/Playwrights Union of  
 Canada (PUC) Liaison Committee  
 Contract Committee  
 Minutes and Agendas

Public Lending Right Commission  
 Saskatchewan Arts Board  
     Correspondence: 1977-87  
 Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre  
     Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre  
     Correspondence: 1981-83  
     Executive Committee  
         Minutes and Agendas  
     Minutes and Agendas  
     Newsletter  
 Saskatchewan Writers Guild  
 Box 45                      Saskatchewan Writers Guild  
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     Playwrights, 1977.  
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     Catalogue, Volume One. Guild of  
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## Articles

- "Ancestors" (Test Bore #1)
- "The Development of a Playwright Who has Written More Plays for Younger Audiences than He has for Older Ones"
- "Deverell on Kramer"
- "Memories of Four Openings". McMaster News (May 1978).
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- "On the Making of No. 1 Hard". Perception, volume 1, number 6 (July/August 1978): pp. 12-13.
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## Books Edited by Rex Deverell

- By The Home Show, The Correction Line, n.d..  
The Home Show  
Notes  
Poetry

Correspondence: 1976-82

Box 46 High School/Post-Secondary Writings  
High School Writings

- "An Answer to a Poem"
- "Confusion vs Inspiration"
- "Discovery"
- "Exploration"
- "For Any Thing"
- "The Great Lady Speaks"
- "I Wonder"
- "Impressions of An Airport"

"My Church"  
 "New Art Form"  
 "Night Life"  
 "Play Fare"  
 "Reject Slips"  
 "Space Age"  
 "A Thing of Beauty is A Joy Forever"  
 [Untitled]  
 [Untitled]  
 [Untitled]  
 "Witness and Prejudice"

Post-Secondary Writings

"Borges: The Fantastic and the Real".  
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 Fulfillment of the Requirements of  
 Master of Sacred Theology Course:  
 S.T. 446

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 focus  
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 focus: "To Rita"  
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 Deverell, Ramsay, "The Kindergarten Blues"  
 "Laying down the floor joists"  
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 "Moral Arrangement"  
 "On Digging Out One's Ears"  
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Radio Commentaries

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Alaton, Salem, "Canadian Playwrights Keep  
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Barbados".
- Draper, Samuel, "Ghelderode on Paintings"
- Gilman, Richard, "Do people go to the Theatre  
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- Ursell, Geoffrey  
"I've Been Meaning to Tell You"  
"Holy Crow!"  
"What Good is All of This Country"  
"The Vampire Song"  
"97 Kinds of Wheat"  
"More Room for Me!"

#### Unknown Authors

- "Wheat: Ecology Section"
- Nominated for 14th ACTRA Awards Best Writer - TV Drama
  - Nominated for 14th ACTRA Awards Best Writer - TV Drama

## Audio Tapes

Number	Accession Number	Box Number	Description
1	89-17	Box 14	"Dreams and Things" 1973-74, #1 "Red Moon and Black Mountain"
2	89-17	Box 14	"Dreams and Things" 1973-74, #2 "The Invisible Man"
3	89-17	Box 14	"Dreams and Things" 1973-74, #3 "Out of the Silent Planet"
4	89-17	Box 27	"Medicare" - Whelan tape
5	89-17	Box 14	"Love Scenes", CBC Regina Production, January 6, 1979
6	89-17	Box 27	"Medicare" 1: T. Walter Erb May 31 2: Myron Kuziak: Introduction Ed Whelan
7	89-17		Review of Playwrights Workshop, 1980
8	89-17		The Band Anthology II Rock of Ages II
9	89-17	Box 16	Brothers Rehearsal, 1970 Travels with Aunt Jane, CBC, 1974
10	89-17		Ramsay A_____
11	89-17		Palliser 3
12	89-17		William G. Davis, May 25, 1979
13	89-17		Schumiatcher
14	89-17	Box 27	Dr. Harold D. Dalglish – Medicare
15	89-17		Lord Taylor
16	89-17		Kay B. - Rex D. - Peter W.

17	89-17		untitled
18	89-17		Walter Smishek
19	89-17		Future Probe (D.M.C. September 1973) 1: 1978 Sermon 2: Bruce Rogers' Remarks
20	89-17		Kay B. - Rex D. - Peter W. #2
21	89-17	Box 27	"Medicare" W. S. Lloyd Statement re: Medicare, 1962
22	89-17		Lord Taylor

## Oversize Materials

Oversize Number	Accession Number	Box Number	Description
1	89-17	20	Copetown City Kite Crisis Copetown City Kite Crisis, Storybook Theatre [poster], March 11-20, 1988
2	89-17	28	Melody Meets the Bag Lady Melody Meets the Bag Lady, The Great Canadian Theatre Company [poster], Fall 1983
3	89-17	30	Theatre [poster], March 11-26, 1983
4	89-17	41	Professional Associations Association for Canadian Theatre History. Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Canadian Theatre and Drama
5	89-17	14	Love Scenes Programmes/ Notes Ninth Annual ACTRA Awards Best Dramatic Writer Radio "Love Scenes" (Anthology) -CBC, February 1980
6	89-17	14	Constructions Notes Thirteenth Annual ACTRA Awards. Best Writer – Radio Drama Constructions (Anthology), March 1984
7	89-17	15	The Riel Commission Fifteenth Annual ACTRA Awards. Best Writer – Original Radio Drama. The Riel Commission, March 1986

## Photographs

- Photo 1 [Rex Deverell and Friends]
- Date: October 2, 1967  
black and white  
5x7  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information: "The Canadian Baptist" written on back  
Left to right: unknown, Rex Deverell,  
Rita Deverell, unknown  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder
- Photo 2 Rex and Rita Deverell
- Date:  
black and white  
>8x10  
Type: proof  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder
- Photo 3 Rex Deverell in Boy Scouts
- Date:  
black and white  
>4x5  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event: Boy Scout trip  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder
- Photo 4 [Rita Deverell's parents]
- Date:  
black and white  
>4x5  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder
- Photo 5 Rex Deverell
- Date: c. 1973  
black and white  
>4x5  
Type: portrait  
Photographer:

Additional Information: 73-195-05  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 6

Rex Deverell

Date:  
black and white  
5x7  
Type: portrait  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 7

Rex Deverell

Date: c. 1975  
black and white  
>8x10  
Type: contact prints  
Photographer:  
Additional Information: matches photos 9-11  
Event: [appointment of Playwright in Residence with Globe Theatre]  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 8

Rex Deverell

Date: c. 1975  
black and white  
5x7  
Type: portrait  
Photographer:  
Additional Information: matches frame #3A of  
photo 7  
Event: [appointment of Playwright in Residence with Globe Theatre]  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 9

Rex Deverell

Date: c. 1975  
black and white  
5x7  
Type: portrait  
Photographer:  
Additional Information: matches #5A of photo 7  
Event: [appointment of Playwright in Residence with Globe Theatre]  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 10

Rex Deverell

Date: c. 1975  
black and white  
8x10  
Type:  
Photographer:

Additional Information: matches frame #12A of photo 7  
Event: [appointment of Playwright in Residence with Globe Theatre]  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 11

Rex Deverell

Date: c. 1975  
colour  
8x10  
Type: portrait  
Photographer: Ian Preston  
Additional Information: matches frame #2A of photo 7  
Event: [appointment of Playwright in Residence with Globe Theatre]  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 12

Rex Deverell

Date: c. 1975  
colour  
5x7  
Type: negatives  
Photographer:  
Additional Information: matches photos 7-11  
Event: [appointment of Playwright in Residence with Globe Theatre]  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 13

Rex Deverell

Date:  
black and white  
8x10  
Type: contact print sheet  
Photographer:  
Additional Information: part of series with photo 12  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 14

Rex Deverell

Date:  
black and white  
>8x10  
Type: contact print sheet  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 15

Rex Deverell

Date:  
black and white  
5x7  
Type: portrait  
Photographer:

## Additional Information:

Event:

Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 16 [Rex Deverell's Family]

Date:

black and white

5x7

Type: negatives

Photographer:

Additional Information:

Event:

Location: 89-17, Box 2, Personal, Photographs folder

Photo 17 [Plays by Rex Deverell]

Date:

black and white

4x5

Type:

Photographer:

Additional Information:

Event:

Location: 89-17, Box 11, Plays by Rex Deverell, Photographs folder

Photo 18 [Plays by Rex Deverell]

Date:

black and white

4x5

Type:

Photographer:

Additional Information:

Event:

Location: 89-17, Box 11, Plays by Rex Deverell, Photographs folder

Photo 19 [Plays by Rex Deverell]

Date:

black and white

4x5

Type:

Photographer:

Additional Information:

Event:

Location: 89-17, Box 11, Plays by Rex Deverell, Photographs folder

Photo 20 [Plays by Rex Deverell]

Date:

colour

4x5

Type:

Photographer:

Additional Information:



Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 11, Plays by Rex Deverell, Photographs folder

Photo 21 [Plays by Rex Deverell]

Date:  
black and white  
5x7  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 11, Plays by Rex Deverell, Photographs folder

Photo 22 "The Invitation"

Date:  
black and white  
5x7  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event:  
Location: 89-17, Box 24, Plays by Rex Deverell, "The Invitation", Script:

Printed  
Copy folder

Photo 23 Queen Elizabeth and Rex Deverell

Date: October 19, 1987  
colour  
5x7  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information: Centre of the Arts, Regina  
Event: Queen Elizabeth visit to Regina  
Location: 89-17, Box 28, Plays by Rex Deverell,  
"Prairie Wind", Queen's Visit to Regina folder

Photo 24 "Voyage/Voyageur"

Date: Summer 1986  
black and white  
>5x7  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event: World Council of Churches presentation of "Voyage/Voyageur" at

Expo 86  
in Vancouver  
Location: 89-17, Box 32, Plays by Rex Deverell,  
"Voyage/Voyageur", Notes folder

Photo 25 "Voyage/Voyageur"

Date: Summer 1986

black and white  
5x7  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event: World Council of Churches presentation of  
"Voyage/Voyageur" at Expo 86 in Vancouver  
Location: 89-17, Box 32, Plays by Rex Deverell,  
"Voyage/Voyageur", Notes folder

Photo 26 "Voyage/Voyageur"

Date: Summer 1986  
black and white  
>8x10  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event: World Council of Church presentation of  
"Voyage/Voyageur" at Expo 86 in Vancouver  
Location: 89-17, Box 32, Plays by Rex Deverell,  
"Voyage/Voyageur", Notes folder

Photo 27 "Voyage/Voyageur"

Date: Summer 1986  
black and white  
8x10  
Type:  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event: World Council of Churches presentation of  
"Voyage/Voyageur" at Expo 86 in Vancouver  
Location: 89-17, Box 32, Plays by Rex Deverell,  
"Voyage/Voyageur", Notes folder

Photo 28 "Voyage/Voyageur"

Date: Summer 1986  
black and white  
8x10  
Type: negative  
Photographer:  
Additional Information:  
Event: World Council of Churches presentation of  
"Voyage/Voyageur" at Expo 86 in Vancouver  
Location: 89-17, Box 32, Plays by Rex Deverell,  
"Voyage/Voyageur", Notes folder

Photo 29-32 Dog team ride

Date: May 1985  
colour  
4x5  
Type:  
Photographer:

## Additional Information:

Event: Workshop in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Location: 89-17, Box 37, Professional Activities and Interests,  
Conferences/Workshops, Correspondence folder

## Slide 1 [Plays by Rex Deverell]

Date:

Black and white

Photographer:

Additional Information:

Location: 89-17, Box 1 , Plays by Rex Deverell, Photographs