

Gordon Dickerson:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection of Modern British Playwrights at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator Dickerson, Gordon

Title Gordon Dickerson Collection of Modern British Playwrights

Extent 21 boxes, 1 folder, oversize flat file (8.82 linear feet)

Abstract: This collection contains material related to the careers of British playwrights Michael Frayn, David Hare, Tony Harrison, John Osborne, Tom Stoppard, and David Storey, including scripts, programs and playbills, reviews, articles, biographical material, business correspondence, contracts, and posters.

RLIN Record #

Language English.

Access Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition Purchase, Reg. no. 14075

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Repository: Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

This collection, compiled by literary agent Gordon Dickerson of Fraser & Dunlop Scripts Ltd., contains material related to the careers of modern British playwrights Michael Frayn, David Hare, Tony Harrison, John Osborne, Tom Stoppard, and David Storey. The archive includes scripts, programs and playbills, reviews, articles, biographical material, business correspondence, contracts, and posters. While some original manuscript material is present, especially Stoppard scripts, the bulk of the collection comprises newspaper clippings and magazine articles.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by playwright in six series: I. Michael Frayn (1 box); II. David Hare (1 folder); III. Tony Harrison (2 boxes); IV. John Osborne (3 boxes); V. Tom Stoppard (13 boxes), and VI. David Storey (2 boxes).

Series I, containing material by and about Michael Frayn, is divided into two subseries: Subseries A. Works, and Subseries B. Articles, Correspondence, Playbills, Posters, and Reviews. The works in Subseries A include playscripts for *Alphabetical Order*, *Benefactors*, *Donkey's Years*, and *Noises Off*. Subseries B contains articles and biographical material on Frayn, as well as articles by and about his wife Claire Tomalin. Minimal correspondence is present, a letter each to Frayn and Dickerson, along with two revisions of Karen Blansfield's entry on Frayn in *British Playwrights Since 1956* (Greenwood, 1996). Reviews include his adaptations and translations: *La Belle Vivette*, *Exchange*, and works by Chekhov; books: *A Landing on the Sun*, *Now You Know* (also for stage), and *The Trick of It*; plays: *Alphabetical Order*; *Benefactors*; *Clouds*; *Donkeys' Years*; *Look, Look*; *Make and Break* (also for BBC TV); *Noises Off*; *The Sandboy*; and *The Two of Us*; screenplay: *Clockwise*; and work for television: *First and Last*.

Programs for two works by David Hare, *A Map of the World* and *Pravda: A Fleet Street Comedy*, are present in Series II. Also included is Hare's review of Tony Richardson's memoir *Long Distance Runner*.

Series III contains articles, programs, and reviews for works of theatrical poet Tony Harrison. The articles and interviews with Harrison date from 1986-1993, while a published bibliography by John Kaiser covers the years 1957-87. Also included are programs and reviews for his adaptations: *The Bartered Bride*, *The Misanthrope*, and *Orestia*; book and film: *The Gaze of the Gorgon*; music-theatre: *Bow Down* and *Phaedra Britannica*; works for television: *The Big H*, *The Blasphemers' Banquet*, *Black Daisies for the Bride*, *Loving Memory*; and theater: *Medea: SexWar*, *Poetry or Bust*, *Square Rounds*, *Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, and *V*.

The works of John Osborne, from the debut of his "angry young man" in *Look Back in Anger* (1956) to his angry old years and death in 1994, are represented in Series IV. The series is divided into Subseries A. Works; Subseries B. Programs, Playbills, and Reviews; and Subseries C. Articles, Contracts, and Correspondence. Osborne's works in Subseries A include scripts for *The World of Paul Slickey* and *You're Not Watching Me, Mummy*. Subseries B contains programs, playbills, and reviews for Osborne's works which are arranged by the title. Included are his memoir *Almost a Gentleman*;

adaptations: *The Father* (Strindberg) and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; collected prose: *Damn You, England*; and plays: *Déjàvu*, *The Entertainer*, *Epitaph for George Dillon* (with Anthony Creighton), *The Hotel in Amsterdam*, *Inadmissible Evidence*, *Look Back in Anger* (revival), *Luther*, *A Patriot for Me*, and *The World of Paul Slickey*; and screenplay: *England, My England*. Subseries C consists predominately of newspaper clippings and magazine tearsheets of articles by both John and Helen Osborne, especially items written for *The Spectator*. Articles written about Osborne from 1973-95, as well as biographical material and obituaries, are also present.

Osborne's contracts date from 1973-83 and represent such titles as *The Entertainer*, *Look Back in Anger* (for television), *Luther*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and *Watch It Come Down*. The correspondence, 1973-1993, from the Fraser & Dunlop [also Peters, Fraser & Dunlop] agency files on Osborne, comprises letters to and from its associates, Dickerson, Kenneth Ewing, and Robin Dalton. Carbons and photocopies of Osborne's correspondence are also present. Correspondents include producers for stage and television, literary agents, and directors, especially Stuart Burge, Peter Hall, Robert Kidd, Oscar Lewenstein, Michael Rudman, Norman Twain, Margery Vosper, and Audrey Wood. Included in the correspondence are photocopies of letters and notes from Osborne to Laura del Bono and Neale Stainton and theirs to him. Several typescript drafts of articles and reviews Osborne wrote for publication are also present. This material supplements the Osborne Papers previously received at the Ransom Center.

The largest series, Series V, contains the work of Tom Stoppard represented by scripts in Subseries A, followed by Subseries B. Programs, Playbills, and Posters; Subseries C. Reviews; Subseries D. Articles; and Subseries E. Career-related Material.

Stoppard's works in Subseries A include playscripts, radio plays, screenplays, and teleplays, which complement those already received and cataloged at the Ransom Center and provide important new material for researchers. The programs, playbills, and posters in Subseries B are arranged alphabetically by title of the work, as are the reviews in Subseries C. Numerous articles by and about Stoppard, which date from his early years in journalism in the 1950s, comprise Subseries D.

Career-related material in Subseries E includes announcements of Stoppard's 1979 Shakespeare prize and a 1980 commencement program from the University of Sussex listing Stoppard as the recipient of an honorary degree. Of particular interest are original copies of agreements and contracts which date from 1963-1972. Included are contracts with Fraser and Dunlop (Scripts) Ltd. for *After Magritte* (1970), *Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon* (1972), *The Real Inspector Hound* (1967), and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1966); with Fraser & Dunlop Ltd. for *A Separate Peace* (1969); with Faber and Faber Ltd. for *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1967); with Oliver Moon Ltd. for *The Preservation of George Riley* (1968); with Paramount Pictures for *Galileo* (1972); and with Anthony Blond Ltd. for *Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon* (1963). Related correspondence is also present. Additional contracts are found in Kenneth Ewing's file on Stoppard, while Ewing served as director and chairman of Fraser & Dunlop (Scripts) Ltd. Dating from 1967-1992, the correspondence includes photocopied letters and carbons from Stoppard to Dickerson and others. Carbons of Ewing's outgoing letters, representing Stoppard's interests, form the bulk of the correspondence.

Series VI represents the works of David Storey, primarily through programs and reviews. Included are cuttings and programs for his plays *The Changing Room*, *The Contractor*, *Cromwell*, *Early Days*, *The Farm*, *Home*, *In Celebration*, *Life Class*, *The March on Russia*, *Mother's Day*, *Otthon*, *Pasmore*, *Phoenix*, *Present Times*, *Sisters*, *Stages*, *Storey's Lives*, and *A Temporary Life*. Articles on Storey and biographical material are also present.

The collection was processed according to the compiler's order as received, except for the organization of programs and reviews into folders by title. Original folders and descriptions are retained. The material is in good condition, although deterioration is evident where tape and glue were used to adhere articles and reviews to supporting pages.

Index Terms

Authors

Frayn, Michael
Hare, David, 1947-
Harrison, Tony, 1937-
Osborne, John, 1929-
Stoppard, Tom
Storey, David, 1933-

Series I. Michael Frayn

Subseries A. Works

<i>Alphabetical Order</i> , playscript, duplicated copy with holograph corrections	box 1 folder 1
<i>Benefactors</i> , playscript, photocopy of revision of published version (Methuen, third ed., 1985)	folder 2
<i>Donkey's Years</i> , playscript, corrected typescript, top copy	folder 3
<i>Noises Off</i> , playscript, revision of published version (Methuen, 1983)	folder 4
Play and prose fragments: "Blots, ""Glycerine, ""A little peace and quiet, ""Never mind the weather, ""On an occasion of this nature, ""Value for money, "and "Who do you think you are"	folder 5

Subseries B. Articles, Correspondence, Playbills, Programs and Reviews

Articles and biographical material, 1984-95	box 1 folder 6
Articles by and about Claire Tomalin, 1987-94	folder 7
Correspondence, including draft of entry for <i>British Playwrights Since 1956</i> , 1988-93,	folder 8
Playbills, programs, and reviews of Frayn's works: adaptations, fiction, screenplays, stage plays, television, and translations	
A - F	box 1 folder 9
<i>Alphabetical Order</i>	
<i>La Belle Vivette</i>	
<i>Benefactors</i>	
<i>The Cherry Orchard, The Sneeze, Three Sisters, Uncle Vanya</i> (Chekhov) [poster of <i>Wild Honey</i> removed to oversize flat file]	

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Clockwise

Clouds

Donkey's Years

Exchange (Trifonov)

First and Last

L - M

box 1 folder 10

A Landing on the Sun

Look, Look

Make and Break

N - T

box 1 folder 11

Noises Off

Now You Know

The Sandboy

The Trick of It

The Two of Us

Series II. David Hare

Programs for *A Map of the World* and *Pravda: A Fleet Street Comedy*; Hare's review of Tony Richardson's memoir *Long Distance Runner*

box 1
folder
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Series III. Tony Harrison

Articles

With interviews, 1986-1993 **box 2 folder 1**

In Spanish, 1993 **folder 2**

"Awards details" **folder 3**

Bibliography

"Tony Harrison: A Bibliography, 1957-1987" by John R. Kaiser, photocopy of printed
version (Mansell, 1989) **box 2 folder 4**

Programs and reviews

The Bartered Bride (Smetana) **box 2 folder 5**

The Big H, a music drama with Dominic Muldowney **folder 6**

The Blasphemers' Banquet **folder 7**

Black Daisies for the Bride **folder 8**

Bow Down, music by Harrison Birtwistle **folder 9**

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The Misanthrope, cont. **box 3 folder 1**

The Mysteries **folder 2**

The Orestia (Aeschylus) **folder 3**

Phaedra Britannica **folder 4**

Poetry or Bust **folder 5**

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Square Rounds

folder 6

The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus

folder 7-8

V, film and stage versions

folder 9

Series IV. John Osborne

Subseries A. Works

- The World of Paul Slickey*, playscript, two uncorrected typescripts, top copy **box 4
folder 1**
- You're Not Watching Me, Mummy*, teleplay, corrected carbon typescript **folder 2**

Subseries B. Programs, Playbills, and Reviews

- Almost a Gentleman* **box 4 folder 3-4**
- Damn You, England* **folder 5**
- Déjàvu* **folder 6**
- England, My England* **folder 7**
- The Entertainer* **folder 8**
- Epitaph for George Dillon* **folder 9**
- The Father* (Strindberg) **folder 10**
- The Hotel in Amsterdam* **folder 11**
- Inadmissible Evidence* [poster removed to oversize flat file] **box 5
folder 1**
- Look Back in Anger* (revival) **folder 2-3**
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- A Patriot for Me* [poster removed to oversize flat file] **folder 5-6**
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Subseries C. Articles, Contracts, and Correspondence

Articles

About John Osborne, includes biographical material and obits, 1973-95	box 6 folder 1-3
By Osborne, includes book reviews and letters to the editor, 1978-94	folder 4
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Contracts, 1973-83	folder 6
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Series V. Tom Stoppard

Subseries A. Works

<i>Albert's Bridge</i> , radio play, uncorrected, duplicated typescript	box 7 folder 1
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<i>And Now the Incredible Archibald Jumpers</i> , playscript, top copy with holograph corrections	folder 3
<i>Another Moon Called Earth</i> , playscript which later became <i>Jumpers</i> , uncorrected, photocopy typescript	folder 4
<i>Artist Descending A Staircase</i>	
Play for radio, corrected, duplicated copy	box 7 folder 5
Playscript, revision of printed version, incomplete photocopy with holograph corrections	folder 6
<i>Billy Bathgate</i> , screenplay, second draft, uncorrected duplicated typescript, May 1990	folder 7
<i>Brazil</i>	
Screenplay, typescript with minor holograph corrections	box 7 folder 8
Playscript, corrected typescript, September 1982	folder 9
<i>Dirty Linen</i> , playscript, early version "Maddie Sees It Through," duplicated typescript and photocopy	folder 10
<i>Doctor Masopust, I Presume</i> , serial for radio, uncorrected carbon typescript	box 8 folder 1

<i>Doog's [sic] our Pet: An Opening Ceremony</i> playscript, carbon typescript with minor holograph corrections	folder 2
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<i>Funny Man</i> , teleplay, uncorrected carbon typescript	folder 9
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<i>The Gamblers</i> , playscript, uncorrected carbon typescript	folder 12
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<i>Home and Dry</i> , playscript, [previously titled "The Preservation of George Riley, "uncorrected duplicated typescript	box 9 folder 1
<i>House of Bernarda Alba</i> , playscript, English version by T.S.	
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<i>How Sir Dudley Lost the Empire</i> , playscript, first draft, carbon typescript with minor holograph corrections	folder 4
<i>Knuckle</i> , screenplay, corrected typescript	folder 5
<i>Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon</i> , screenplay, first draft, top copy with holograph corrections	folder 6
<i>Michael the First</i> , screenplay by T.S. and others, duplicated typescript with minor corrections	folder 7
<i>Murder at Mousetrap Manor</i> , playscript, photocopy typescript	folder 8
<i>Neutral Ground</i> , screenplay, typescript with holograph corrections	folder 9
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<i>One Pair of Eyes</i> , teleplay, duplicated typescript	folder 2
<i>Professional Foul</i> , radio script, corrected duplicated typescript	folder 3
<i>The Real Inspector Hound</i> , playscript for CBC stage, uncorrected, duplicated typescript	folder 4
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<i>Rough Crossing</i> , playscript, corrected typescript and draft revision of printed version, March 1987	folder 2
<i>The Russia House</i> , revised first draft, uncorrected duplicated typescript	folder 3
<i>Squaring the Circle: Poland</i> , screenplay treatment	folder 4
<i>Tango</i> , playscript, adapted by T.S., uncorrected duplicated typescript	folder 5
<i>Teeth</i> , playscript for Thirty Minute Theatre, corrected carbon copy and photocopy	folder 6
<i>This Way Out with Samuel Boot</i> , screenplay, carbon typescript with holograph corrections	folder 7
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<i>The Undiscovered Country</i> , English version by T.S., playscript, first draft, duplicated uncorrected copy, April 1979	folder 11
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Teleplay, camera script, final draft **folder 3**

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Subseries B. Programs, Playbills, and Posters

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Jumpers, including production photographs **folder 5**

Largo Désolato [poster removed to oversize flat file]

The Love for Three Oranges and *The Merry Widow* **box 13 folder 6**

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<i>Dalliance</i>	folder 3
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Articles by T.S., early journalism, photocopies, 1950s-60s	folder 5
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Magazine issues and newspaper magazine sections related to T.S. [oversize material removed to flat file]	box 19 folder 1
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Biographical info	folder 3
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Kenneth Ewing (Fraser & Dunlop) file of T.S. material, including correspondence and contracts	folder 5-6
Univ. of Iowa brochure, "A Tom Stoppard Summer: Summer Rep '85"	folder 7

Series IV. David Storey

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