

Gordon Dickerson:

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

Descriptive Summary

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Creator | Dickerson, Gordon |
| Title | Gordon Dickerson Collection of Modern British Playwrights |
| Dates: | 1957-1995, undated |
| 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. |
| Call Number: | Manuscript Collection MS-04796 |
| Language: | English |
| Access | Open for research |

Administrative Information

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Acquisition | Purchase, Reg. no. 14075 |
| Processed by | Liz Murray, 1998 |
| Repository: | Harry Ransom Center, The 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 to 1993, while a published bibliography by John Kaiser covers the years 1957 to 1987. 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 to 1995, as well as biographical material and obituaries, are also present.

Osborne's contracts date from 1973 to 1983 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 to 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 to 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] | |

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
12

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**

The Gaze of the Gorgon **folder 10**

Loving Memory **folder 11**

Medea: SexWar **folder 12**

The Misanthrope (Molière) **folder 13**

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**

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

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

Subseries B. Programs, Playbills, and Reviews

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <i>Almost a Gentleman</i> | box 4 folder 3-4 |
| <i>Damn You, England</i> | folder 5 |
| <i>Déjàvu</i> | folder 6 |
| <i>England, My England</i> | folder 7 |
| <i>The Entertainer</i> | folder 8 |
| <i>Epitaph for George Dillon</i> | folder 9 |
| <i>The Father</i> (Strindberg) | folder 10 |
| <i>The Hotel in Amsterdam</i> | folder 11 |
| <i>Inadmissible Evidence</i> [poster removed to oversize flat file] | box 5 folder 1 |
| <i>Look Back in Anger</i> (revival) | folder 2-3 |
| <i>Luther</i> | folder 4 |
| <i>A Patriot for Me</i> [poster removed to oversize flat file] | folder 5-6 |
| <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> | folder 7 |
| <i>The World of Paul Slickey</i> | folder 8 |

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 |
| By Helen Osborne, 1993-97 | folder 5 |
| Contracts, 1973-83 | folder 6 |
| Correspondence, 1973-93 | folder 7 |

Series V. Tom Stoppard

Subseries A. Works

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Albert's Bridge</i> , radio play, uncorrected, duplicated typescript | box 7 folder 1 |
| <i>Always</i> , screenplay, final shooting script, uncorrected, duplicated typescript, 12/9/89 | folder 2 |
| <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 |
| <i>Dogg's Troupe [Dogg's our Pet]</i> , playscripts, two uncorrected duplicated typescripts and corrected galleys | folder 3 |
| <i>Dogg's our Pet</i> , second filmstrip, uncorrected photocopy typescript | folder 4 |
| <i>Empire of the Sun</i> , screenplay treatment?, corrected typescript, 24/6/85 | folder 5 |
| <i>The Engagement</i> , screenplay, corrected carbon typescript | folder 6 |
| <i>The Explorers</i> , teleplay, typescript, top copy with holograph corrections | folder 7 |
| <i>The Frog Prince</i> , screenplay, uncorrected carbon typescript | folder 8 |
| <i>Funny Man</i> , teleplay, uncorrected carbon typescript | folder 9 |
| <i>Galileo</i> , screenplay | |
| Duplicated typescript | box 8 folder 10 |
| 2nd draft, uncorrected duplicated typescript | folder 11 |
| <i>The Gamblers</i> , playscript, uncorrected carbon typescript | folder 12 |
| <i>Hapgood</i> , playscript, corrected typescript, Dec. 1986-Jan. 1987 | folder 13 |
| <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. | |
| Corrected photocopy typescript | box 9 folder 2 |
| Uncorrected photocopy typescript | folder 3 |

| | |
|---|--|
| <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 |
| <i>Night and Day</i> | |
| Playscript, corrected duplicated copy #17, with typescript inserts, Dec. 1978 | box 9 folder 10 |
| Screenplay, second draft, heavily corrected typescript with numerous inserts, August 1980 | box 10 folder 1 |
| <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 |
| <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i> , screenplay | |
| Corrected duplicated copy, Aug. 1987 | box 10 folder 5 |
| Composite typescript with corrections, Jan. 1989 | folder 6 |

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| #13, photocopy typescript | folder 7 |
| Uncorrected, duplicated typescript, 118p. | folder 8 |
| Playscript, uncorrected, duplicated typescript | box 11 folder 1 |
| <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 |
| <i>Travesties</i> , playscript | |
| Carbon typescript with minor corrections | box 11 folder 8 |
| Photocopy of printed version | folder 9 |
| <i>Two Hands Smashing Together</i> , playscript, [A.C.H. Smith], uncorrected carbon typescript | folder 10 |
| <i>The Undiscovered Country</i> , English version by T.S., playscript, first draft, duplicated uncorrected copy, April 1979 | folder 11 |
| <i>A Walk on the Water</i> | |
| Playscript, uncorrected duplicated typescript | box 12 folder 1 |
| Playscript, mimeograph typescript (2 copies) | folder 2 |

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Teleplay, camera script, final draft | folder 3 |
| Teleplay, camera script, final draft no. 2 | folder 4 |
| Subseries B. Programs, Playbills, and Posters | |
| <i>After Magritte</i> | box 12 folder 5 |
| <i>Albert's Bridge</i> [combined with <i>If You're Glad I'll Be Frank</i>] | folder 6 |
| Arcadia | folder 7 |
| <i>Artist Descending a Staircase</i> | folder 8 |
| <i>Dalliance</i> | folder 9 |
| <i>Dirty Linen and New-Found-Land</i> | folder 10 |
| <i>Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth</i> | folder 11 |
| <i>Empire of the Sun</i> | box 13 folder 1 |
| <i>Enter a Free Man</i> | folder 2 |
| <i>Every Good Boy Deserves Favour</i> | folder 3 |
| <i>Hapgood and Indian Ink</i> | folder 4 |
| <i>Jumpers</i> , including production photographs | folder 5 |
| <i>Largo Désolato</i> [poster removed to oversize flat file] | |
| <i>The Love for Three Oranges</i> and <i>The Merry Widow</i> | box 13 folder 6 |
| <i>Magic Moments with Mantovani</i> in "Two Acts of Love with a 15 Minute Interval" in aid of the Ford Martin Fund | folder 7 |
| <i>Night and Day</i> | folder 8 |
| <i>On the Razzle</i> and <i>The Real Inspector Hound</i> | folder 9 |
| <i>The Real Thing</i> | box 14 folder 1-2 |

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i> | folder 3 |
| <i>Rough Crossing</i> | folder 4 |
| <i>Tango and Travesties</i> | folder 5 |
| Subseries C. Reviews | |
| <i>After Magritte and Arcadia</i> | box 15 folder 1 |
| <i>Artist Descending a Staircase and Born Yesterday</i> (T.S. director) | folder 2 |
| <i>Dalliance</i> | folder 3 |
| <i>Dirty Linen</i> | folder 4 |
| <i>Dog It Was that Died; Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth; Dogg's our Pet</i> | folder 5 |
| <i>Empire of the Sun; The Engagement; and Enter a Free Man</i> | folder 6 |
| <i>Every Good Boy Deserves Favour</i> | folder 7 |
| <i>Hamlet</i> | folder 8 |
| <i>Hapgood</i> | folder 9 |
| <i>The House of Bernarda Alba and The Human Factor</i> | folder 10 |
| <i>In the Native State and Indian Ink</i> | folder 11 |
| <i>Jumpers</i> | box 16 folder 1 |
| <i>Largo Desolato</i> | folder 2 |
| <i>Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon and Love [of] Three Oranges</i> | folder 3 |
| <i>The Merry Widow and Night and Day</i> | folder 4 |
| <i>On the Razzle</i> | folder 5 |
| <i>The Real Inspector Hound</i> | folder 6 |
| <i>The Real Thing</i> | folder 7 |

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i> | folder 8 |
| <i>R and G, cont.</i> | box 17 folder 1 |
| <i>Rough Crossing</i> | folder 2 |
| <i>Squaring the Circle</i> | folder 3 |
| <i>Travesties</i> | folder 4-5 |
| <i>Undiscovered Country and Where Are They Now?</i> | folder 6 |
| Subseries D. Articles | |
| Articles about T.S. | box 18 folder 1-3 |
| Articles about others in which T.S. is mentioned | folder 4 |
| Articles by T.S., early journalism, photocopies, 1950s-60s | folder 5 |
| Articles by T.S., mid-1960s-1992 and nd | folder 6 |
| Magazine issues and newspaper magazine sections related to T.S. [oversize material removed to flat file] | box 19 folder 1 |
| Subseries E. Career-related Material | |
| "Awards, etc." | box 19 folder 2 |
| Biographical info | folder 3 |
| Contracts | folder 4 |
| 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

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Articles about DS | box 20 folder 1 |
| Biographical entry from DLB | folder 2 |
| Programs and reviews | |
| <i>The Changing Room</i> | |
| America | box 20 folder 3 |
| England and other countries | folder 4 |
| <i>The Contractor</i> | folder 5 |
| <i>Cromwell</i> | folder 6 |
| <i>Early Days</i> | folder 7 |
| <i>The Farm</i> | folder 8 |
| <i>Home</i> [poster removed to oversize flat file] | box 21 folder 1 |
| <i>In Celebration</i> | folder 2 |
| <i>Life Class</i> | folder 3 |
| <i>The March on Russia</i> | folder 4 |
| <i>Mother's Day</i> | folder 5 |
| O - T | folder 6 |
| <i>Otthon</i> | |
| <i>Pasmore</i> | |
| <i>Present Times</i> | |
| <i>Storey's Lives</i> | |
| <i>A Temporary Life</i> | |
| <i>Phoenix</i> | box 21 folder 7 |
| <i>Sisters</i> | folder 8 |

Stages

folder 9