

Rita Shelton Deverell, CM, EdD
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Affiliations:

ACTRA

Canadian Actors Equity Association

Agent for Performance, AMI, Toronto, Phil Flagler

Playwrights Guild of Canada, full member

THEATRE/Media Actress

2015, *Sonnets for an Old Century*, 2 monologues, Studio Lab Foundation, Toronto.

2015, *Interpreting Andy Warhol* collective, Toronto.

2014, Nana, *The Mother Club*, San Family Productions, Alderney Landing Theatre, Halifax

2013, Edna, *the Hush Baby*, Springworks Festival, Stratford

2012, motherinlaw, *The North Woods*, Mulgrave Road Theatre, staged reading

2011, Madame Jean, *Backbencher*, episode #15, CBC network radio drama

2010, older woman, *Rhonda's Party*, award winning short film, Grassfire Productions, Halifax

2010, *Vagina Monologues*, Halifax collective

2007, Verleen, *Wild Magic*, Winnipeg Fringe Festival; 2009, Regina Fringe Festival

2008, Auntie, *The First Stone*, staged reading, SummerWorks Festival, Toronto

1984, Various Roles, *Voyage/Voyager*, the World Council of Churches, Vancouver

1974-1976, Mrs. Peachum, *Threepenny Opera*, Globe Theatre, Regina

--Lady Bracknell, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Globe Theatre, Regina

--Various roles, documentary, *Medicare*, Globe Theatre, Regina

1971-72, *Shakespeare's Women*, *The Hat*, Globe Theatre School Tour

1970, Negro Woman, *In White America*, Theatre London

1969-70, Dionysus, *Dionysus in 69*, Studio Lab Theatre, Toronto

1960-62, Various apprentice productions, Alley Theatre, Houston

Television - Independent Productions, RJ Deverell Productions

2006-07, *Solo Flight International*, 3 x 1-hour dramas, Producer/Director/Writer Screenplays (independent).

-- "*Bonhoeffer*," English and German versions, first broadcast on OMNI 1 Canadian network, Sept. & Dec. 2007.

-- "*She Said Saffron*," English and Spanish versions, OMNI, first broadcast Sept. & Dec. 2007

-- "*Smoked Glass Ceiling*," English and Punjabi versions. OMNI, Producer/writer of original play and screenplay, first broadcast January 2008.

Note: 3 English versions above also broadcast on Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) 2008.

Solo Flight West, 3 x 1-hour dramas, Producer/Director/Writer Screenplays (independent).

-- "*Glory Days*," first broadcast on the Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN) 2008.

-- "*McCarthy and the Old Woman*." SCN, 2008.

--“*Confessions of an Indian Cowboy*,” first broadcast on APTN network Feb. 2008 and SCN, 2008.

--*Tipping Point*, arts short, 4:04, Bravo!, the new style Canadian Arts Channel,

Producer/Director/Writer (independent), first Broadcast in July 2007.

Screened at the Banff Summer Arts Festival 2007, Women in the Director’s Chair Showcase.

--“*Not a Drop*,” 1-hour docu-drama, for OMNI, premiere March 2009.

Producer/Director/Writer of original Screenplay.

Distributor: V-tape, Toronto.

IN-HOUSE PRODUCTIONS = several thousand!

BROADCAST EXECUTIVE

APTN – 2002-2005.

As Director of News and Current Affairs, Deverell’s mandate was to mentor her Aboriginal successor and kickstart a daily news show. A member of senior management, reporting directly to the president & CEO, she worked with the executive team on its second successful license renewal, pass-through increase of 10 cents, and long range expansion plans for the world’s only national Aboriginal news service.

--Executive responsible for over 900 Current Affairs shows and news specials. Supervising between 20-70 people.

--APTN *National News*, daily live.

--*Contact*, weekly 1-hour live open line show.

--Specials including, *Assembly of First Nations Election 2003* coverage, Inuit, and Métis national elections; *Canadian Federal Elections 2004* coverage; *Aboriginal Solidarity Day*, June 21st, 04, 05, special programming.

Vision TV-- 1988-2002.

Deverell is one of the founders of Vision TV, the world’s first and only multi-faith television network. She was part of Vision’s executive management team and regulatory strategic planning from the network’s successful licensing in 1987, through its renewal and award of a subscriber fee in 1992, and in August 2000 successful applications to the CRTC for three digital channels.

--Vice President of Production, Executive Producer, Senior Producer, Producer, host of over 2000 Current Affairs shows: *It’s About Time*, *Creation*, and *Arts Express*, weekly; *Skylight* and themed documentary evenings, daily.

--Executive responsible for over 2000 Current Affairs shows, and between 10-50 people.

--Co-productions with Newsworld and APTN on Residential Schools (2000); with CBC Radio Ideas on Euthanasia (2001).

1974-75, *Take 30*, 26 half-hours on the "Rights of Children," broadcast on CBC network, Researcher/Host/Interviewer (contract).

1976-80, *All in a Tube*, 50 half-hours, magazine show for older children, broadcast on 14 private Canadian stations, Ottawa to Vancouver, Producer/ Show Runner. (contract).

1976-77, *24 Hours News*, 13 current affairs feature reports, CBC Saskatchewan, Reporter/interviewer (freelance).

1984, *Grandmother, Mother and Me*, 6 half-hours, Regina Public School Board and SaskMedia, educational, Producer/host/Writer. (freelance).

1978-88, *Regina Noon*, 3 half-hours a week x 26 weeks, CBC Saskatchewan, Writer/broadcaster/interviewer (contract).

PUBLICATIONS, selected Presentations and Speeches

--*Women as Public Intellectuals: Discourse and Dynamics* plenary panel. Mount Allison University. 2014.

--*Vocal Scholaristry: Giving Voice to the Art, Craft, Effectiveness, and Excitement of Speech-making. Performing Scholaristry.* Backalong Books. Big Tancook Island Nova Scotia. 2014.

--*Women, Contemporary Aboriginal Issues, and Resistance*, multi-media best practices kit with the assistance of SSHRC, Principal Investigator / Executive Producer, 2013.

--Epilogue. *Fists upon a Star: a Memoir of Love, Theatre, and Escape from McCarthyism.* Florence James and Jean Freeman. 2013, University of Regina Press.

--Editor, *Give Voice: 10 x 20 minute plays from the Obsidian Theatre Playwrights Unit,* Playwrights Canada Press, 2011.

--Editor, *Nancy's Chair 25th Anniversary Journal* in Celebration, Mount Saint Vincent University, 2011.

--*Slavery Endangers the Masters' Health, but Please don't Shoot the Messenger, Reconciliation Through the Lens of Cultural Diversity,* Aboriginal Healing Foundation, 2010.

--*When the Performer is Black.* (1986) "Ethnic, Multicultural, and Intercultural Theatre." Playwrights Canada Press. 2010.

--CRARR, Centre for Action-Research on Race Relations, Concordia, "*Who Will Inherit the Airwaves?*", 2008. Full speech on Banff TV Execs website; excerpts in Radio-TV Directors newsletter; 2009 Canadian Journal of Communications.

--"*Film and TV Tax Credits,*" Toronto SUN, June 2008.

--"*Jean Augustine Chair,*" York University, Toronto SUN, June 2008.

--"*Toronto Gets Action,*" compares propane explosion to Chemical Valley ON, Toronto SUN, July 2008.

--"*Pampered Artists on \$13,000 a Year,*" Toronto SUN, August 2008.

--"*Still looking for the Religious Left,*" Toronto SUN, September 2008. Total 14 columns Toronto SUN, 2008-09.

--LEAF, Legal Education and Action Fund, Manitoba, "*In Praise of Nellie McClung and Florence James,*" 2005.

--Canadian Congress of Black Women, Winnipeg, keynote, 2005.

-- “*On Subjectivity: What you can See Depends on where you Stand and how Short you Are,*” chapter on journalism ethics in Deadlines and Diversity, Fernwood Publishing, Halifax, 1996.

Playwright, Productions

2005, *Smoked Glass Ceiling*, 1-woman show, performer/writer. Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, 2005, Ottawa and Edmonton Fringe Festivals, 2006. (21 performances)
2006, *Pure Animals*, staged reading of 2-person show, FemFest 2006, new works by women.
2006, *McCarthy and the Old Woman*, 1-woman show, performer/writer. Winnipeg and Saskatoon Fringe Festivals, 2006. (Equity company, 19 performances).
2008, *Exit Velocity*, staged reading (Equity Company), Obsidian Theatre Company.
2008, *Big Ease, Big Sleaze*, Winnipeg Fringe. (10 performances).
2010, *Sisters Inc.*, screenplay, staged reading, MSVU, Halifax (Equity Company).
2010, *McCarthy and the Old Woman*, full-length, School of Drama, University of Washington.
2013, *Sisters Inc*, theatre piece, staged reading at FemFest, 2013, Winnipeg.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012-17. Adjunct Professor, Women’s Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University.

2015 Winter & 2013 Fall, Sessional “Teaching in a Multicultural Setting” course, Lakehead University, Orillia.

2013-14. Co-Facilitator/Manager. Caribbean Tales Film Festival Producer Incubator.

2009-12. (12th.) Nancy’s Chair in Women’s Studies. Mount Saint Vincent University.

2011. Trudeau Foundation Mentor.

2007. CanWest Global Fellow. Faculty of Media and Information Studies. University of Western Ontario.

2008. Storyteller in Residence. Centennial College, Centre for Communications. Toronto.

2001. University of Western Ontario, Reader’s Digest Fellow.

2001, Ryerson University, “Diversity Journalism” course.

2001 – 2002. Sabbatical, Fall 2001. Visiting scholar (with Neil Postman) at New York University, Department of Culture and Communication.

1984—1989. Faculty member, Acting Director, School of Journalism, University of Regina.

1981 – 1983. Performing Arts Consultant, Saskatchewan Arts Board. Responsibilities included 2 symphony orchestras, 3 theatres, 1 dance company, numerous individual artists, reporting to an arm’s length board.

Education

B.A. 1966. Philosophy. Adelphi University. Garden City, New York.

M.A. 1968. History of Religions. Columbia University / Union Theological Seminary.

Ed.D. 1985. Curriculum. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education / University of Toronto.

SELECTED AWARDS

--1992, Canadian Ethnic Journalism Association Award.

--1993, Gemini Canada Award, TV series, *It's About Time*.

--1994, Dodi Robb Media Watch Award.

--1995, WIFT-T (Women in Film and TV-Toronto) Crystal Award.

--1996, B'Nai B'rith Human Rights Awards, TV series, *It's About Time*.

--2000, Gemini, Best Lifestyle Information Series, *Skylight*.

--2002, CAB (Canadian Association of Broadcasters) Hall of Fame, Member.

--2005, Order of Canada, Member.

--2007, Golden Sheaf nomination, Yorkton Film Festival, Best Arts Program, *Bonhoeffer*.

--2009, Leadership Award, Black Women's Civic Engagement Network.

--2012, Innoversity Angel Award.

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

Past.

-Ontario Film Development Corporation; -Nightwood Theatre; -Advisory Board, St. Lawrence Centre Forum; -Women in Film and Television, Toronto; -Advisory Board, Program in Culture and Communications, Ryerson & York Universities; Advisory Board, Innoversity (Diversity and Innovation); -Canadian Association of Broadcasters, Joint Societal Issues Committee; CAB, Joint Awards Committee; Advisory Board, Graduate School of Journalism, University of Western Ontario. 2012 Fundraising Committee, Mount Saint Vincent U, 2012-2013.

-Advisory Committee, Seneca@York Broadcast Journalism, 2006; -Advisory Committee, Humber College Theatre Performance, 2006; -Bd. of Governors Communications Committee, Ontario College of Art & Design, 2006; -Board of Governors, OCAD, 2007.

Current. All Voluntary Boards and Committees

-Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, Specialty Panel, Ajudicator at Large, 2001-present.

-CMR (Canadian Multicultural Radio), founding Advisory Board, 2002-present.

-Media Awareness Network, now Media Smarts, 2006-present. Chair: Nominating and Governance Committee.

-Creative Women's Workshops Association, 2007-present.

-Black Loyalist Heritage Society campaign cabinet, 2011-present. (50 hours in fundraising/campaign cabinet in 2011-12)

-P.E. Trudeau Foundation Society, Executive, 2013-present.

RITA SHELTON DEVERELL'S ORDER OF CANADA CITATION – February 2005

Rita Deverell's career in journalism has been one of pioneering innovation and creativity. With an unceasing drive for social justice, she is one of the first Black women in Canada to be a television host and a network executive. Since the 1970s at CBC Regina, she has focused on telling the stories of those whose voices are not often heard. A founder of Vision TV, the world's first multi-faith and multicultural network, she held several senior positions there as well as the network anchor job. She concluded her term as head of news and current affairs at the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network in 2005, having mentored her Aboriginal successor. An inspiring mentor and teacher, she serves as a role model for young journalists and audiences alike.