

Book List

A: Books about the founding and history of the Stratford Festival

1. Stratford: The First Thirty Years Volume I: 1953-1967 and Volume II: 1968-1982
Pettigrew, John and Portman, Jamie
Published by Macmillan of Canada
2. First Stage: The Making of the Stratford Festival
Tom Patterson and Allan Gould
Published by McClelland and Stewart
3. A Star Danced: The Story of how Stratford started the Stratford Festival
Barbara Reid and Thelma Morrison Reid [author]
4. Fifty Seasons at Stratford
Robert Cushman
Produced for The Stratford Festival by Madison Press Books
5. Stratford Behind the Scenes
Don Gillmore
Produced for The Stratford Festival

B: Books about or by Actors

1. Every Inch A Lear: A Rehearsal Journey
Maurice Good
Published by Sono Nis Press
2. This Rough Magic: The Making of an Artistic Director
A Memoir by Richard Monette as told to David Prosser
Published by The Stratford Festival
3. William Hutt: Soldier Actor
Keith Garebian
Guernica Press
4. Stratford Gold: 50 Years, 50 Stars, 50 Conversations
With: Richard Ouzounian
McArthur & Company

C: Other Books of Interest

1. Whenever You're Ready: Nora Polley as a Stratford Festival Stage Manager
Shawn DeSouza-Coelho
E.C.W. Press
2. A Stratford Tempest
Martin Knelman
McClelland & Stewart Ltd.

Notes:

- There are many more books written about the Stratford Festival than those mentioned but I have compiled a list of books that I feel are the most accessible, informative, and interesting. Some of the books that I have suggested may be out of print but are available in public libraries and at the Stratford Festival Archives. I have tried to achieve a balanced telling.
- You can explore an actor's journey through the rehearsal process of King Lear with Peter Ustinov in 'Every Inch A Lear'. You can read about Richard Monette's struggle from actor to director to artistic director in 'This Rough Magic'. 'A Stratford Tempest' is about the organizational politics at the time when the Stratford Festival was in crisis. Nora Polley recounts everything you ever wanted to know about the life of a stage manager.
- In some ways these stories reflect the stories of theatres everywhere but there are many aspects of the Stratford Festival story that are unique, inspirational, and Canadian. The Stratford Festival may not be Canada's national theatre but it's hard to deny the remarkable influence it has had in the development of theatre in Canada.
- Choose a book and enjoy!

Pat Quigley

Former Director of Education at the Stratford Festival 1986 to 2010