

COMPANY BIO – *Who You Callin Black Eh?*

RJDeverell Productions is dedicated to the making of thought provoking drama and documentaries. Rex Deverell is an actor, director and an award winning playwright.

Playwright/Producer, *Who You Callin Black Eh?*, Rita Shelton Deverell for RJ Deverell Productions

Rita's book *American Refugees: Turning to Canada for Freedom* is in bookstores now, published in 2019 by University of Regina Press. She is a theatre artist, broadcaster, scholar, and television producer/director/writer. Rita holds a BA in Philosophy from Adelphi University (1966), an MA in the History of Religions from Columbia (1968), and the Doctor of Education degree from OISE/University of Toronto (1985). She has received numerous awards, including two Geminis, the Black Women's Civic Engagement Network Leadership Award, and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2005 for her pioneering work in broadcasting, notably the founding of Vision TV and mentoring her Aboriginal successor at APTN National News. In the last 10 years Rita has produced 8 nationally broadcast independent TV dramas; authored or edited seven books; been an actor in 10 professional theatre productions; and executive produced a multi-media kit "Women, Contemporary Aboriginal Issues, and Resistance," acquired by the National Film Board's CAMPUS e-learning portal. Rita is an active volunteer with the Canadian Senior Artists Resource Network and a Trustee of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Clara McBride - Director

Clara recently returned to Canada after 17 years in Paris, where she worked as a theatre/film artist in France and around Europe. She originally trained as an actor at the Conservatory program at Acting International Paris. In 2006, Clara began teaching mask and ensemble physical theatre at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London, England. She taught students in both the Masters in Text and Performance and the Masters Theatre Lab programs. In Toronto since 2014, she has directed for the Alumnae Theatre's New Ideas Festival and worked at The Second City as a corporate facilitator, and leading workshops in French for their Training Centre. She performed at the Toronto Fringe in 2015 alongside Judith Thompson in Fail Better Theatre's site specific piece *The Dinner Table*.

Jim Plaxton – Designer.

With a background in architecture, over the past 40+ years, Jim has designed sets and/or lighting and projections for over 500 stage productions [dance, theatre, musicals and opera]. He has received 8 Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Design, a Canada Council Grant, a Chalmers Award and Production Designed 4 independent feature films, a television documentary and adapted designs from stage plays for television. He served as Associate Artistic Director for Theatre Passe Muraille in the mid 1980's, architecturally designed the complete renovation of 3 theatres [Toronto, Peterborough & Montreal] as well as numerous designs of theatre environments in "raw" spaces. He has more recently designed and built the Arcadian Room Theatre in the Co-op where he lives in Toronto and a 4000 square foot 2nd home/guesthouse on the south west coast of Jamaica.