

Living impossible for Canadian actors

Actors flee south

by Suzette C. Chan

Geoffrey Saville-Read is Edmonton's busiest actor. He appeared in seven productions last year within eight months, including shows at the prestigious Citadel. But he could barely make ends meet.

"It's not fair for an actor in his early forties to be scratching a living," he says. There are a lot of professional companies in town but Saville-Read says they don't pay enough and probably never will. So next month, he's off to the United States to find his fortune, armed only with his reputation and determination. Fellow actor Russ Roberts will be along for moral support.

This all makes *Behind the Fringe* Saville-Read and Roberts' farewell performance to Edmonton. The show is a light-hearted collection of British comedy faves, including material by Monty Python and the Two Ronnies. The light-hearted mood is very different from the traces of bitterness and disappointment detected in an interview before one of their performances last week.

"Even if you're the most worked actor in the city, ultimately, you're nothing," Saville-Read says. "After a while, the phone was manifestly silent. No one wants you."

Russ Roberts, whom Saville-Read calls "the most under-rated, under-worked actor in Edmonton," waited months between jobs last year. Finally, he decided to stage a one-man Shakespeare show at the Fringe this year and teamed up with Saville-Read for *Behind the Fringe*.

"In 1983, I made \$6,000," said Roberts. "And that includes waitering, everything. I had to cash in my RRSP in order to live."

The two British expatriates discovered that actors in Canada are not allowed to pay into UIC because they are classified as 'self-employed'.

"We are outside the recognized system," said Roberts. "Minorities complain about being discriminated against but so are all the performers in the world."



Geoffrey Saville-Read Russ Roberts

In some aspects, U.S. actors have a better time of it. They are eligible for unemployment insurance after 16 weeks of stage work and their mortgages are tax-deductible. But the ever realistic Saville-Read knows that the social safety net in the States is much smaller than in Canada.

"Actors, performers, directors, writers (in Canada) are seen by the general public as a frill," he states. "If you take away all the plays, the T.V., what would people have? Not an awful lot. People take it for granted. It's the same all over the world and in the States it's worse."

Nevertheless, Roberts and Saville-Read are determined to live as actors. While they feel their options in Canada are limited, they don't discount returning.

"We write and improvise very well together," said Saville-Read. "Maybe we'll write a show about two Canucks in Hollywood"

Behind the Fringe is playing at the Nexus Theatre in MacCauley Plaza. A 50-minute version is on weekdays at 12:05 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and at 11:50 Tuesday and Thursday. On Friday and Saturday night, the 90-minute version starts at 8:30 p.m..

Library Information Notice

Fall/Winter Session 1985/86
(Effective September 9, 1985)
University of Alberta

Hours of Service

	Mon. - Thurs.	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Cameron/Rutherford North & South				
Building Open	0745-2400	0745-2200	1000-2200	1000-2400
Circulation	0745-2330	0745-2130	1000-2130	1000-2330
Reserve Room (Cameron)	0745-2100	0745-1730	1000-1645	1200-1645
Reference Services (Science, HSS)	0830-2130	0830-1800	1000-1700	1200-1700
Government Publications (Cameron)	0830-2130	0830-1700	1000-1700	No Service
Library Information (Cameron)	0800-1800	0800-1800	1200-1700	1200-1700
Fines/Library Cards (Cameron)	0800-1700	0800-1700	Closed	Closed
Photoduplication (Cameron)	0830-1200 1300-1630	0830-1200 1300-1630	Closed	Closed
Interlibrary Loans (Cameron)	0830-1630	0830-1630	Closed	Closed
Bruce Peel Special Collections (Rutherford South) To Oct. 15: After Oct. 15:	0830-1630 Mon. & Friday	0830-1630 0830-1630	Closed	Closed
Tuesday - Thursday	0830-1800			
Saturday	1200-1700			
Sunday	Closed			
Study Hall (Rutherford South)	0700-0200	0700-0200	0700-0200	0900-0200
H.T. Coultts (Education)				
Building/Circulation/Reserve	0745-2200	0745-1745	0900-1645	1200-1745
Education Reference	0830-2100	0830-1700	1200-1645	1200-1700
Curriculum Reference	0830-2100	0830-1700	1000-1645	1200-1700
John W. Scott (Health Sciences)				
Building Open	0745-2400	0745-2200	1000-1800	1000-1800
Circulation/Reserve	0745-2130	0745-1800	1000-1745	1000-1745
Reference Services	0830-2130	0830-1700	No Service	No Service
Media Service	0900-2000	0900-1700	1300-1600	Closed
Photoduplication	0830-1200	0830-1200	Closed	Closed
John A. Weir Memorial (Law)	0745-2400	0745-2200	0830-1700	1200-2400
Computing Science R.R.	0900-1200 1300-2100	0900-1200 1300-1700	1200-1700	1200-1700
Mathematics	0830-1200 1300-1630	0830-1200 1300-1630	Closed	Closed
Music Resources Centre	0830-1730 1830-2130	0830-1730	1000-1730	1230-1730
Physical Sciences	0830-1630	0830-1630	Closed	Closed
Faculte Saint Jean	0830-2200	0830-2200	1300-1700	1300-1700
Winspear Library (Business)	0830-2215	0830-1800	1200-1745	1200-1745
Reference Service	0830-1730	0830-1700	No Service	No Service

Note: Thanksgiving Day (Oct. 14) and Remembrance Day (Nov. 11)

Cameron Library:
Access/Circulation 1000-1800
John W. Scott Library: Access only (no service) 1000-1800
All other libraries CLOSED unless otherwise posted locally.

Library Hours Are Subject To Change

Library Cards and Borrowing

Your student I.D. card with the addition of a bar code is your library card.

After Registration Week, I.D. cards and barcoding can be arranged in the N. Freifeld Reading Room, Cameron Library (1-24) during these hours:

Sept. 9-13 0830-1200, 1300-1930

Sept. 16-20 1330-1930

From Sept. 23 — Barcoding is done at the Library Cards and Fines Office, Cameron 1-26 from 0830-1630 hrs. Cards can be barcoded at the Cameron Circulation Desk after the Fines office closes.

You may borrow material from any library after your I.D. card is barcoded. Borrowing periods vary; check date due slip in book.

Library fines are 50¢ per item per day. Reserve Room fines are higher. Borrowing privileges are suspended when fines exceed \$75.00 or material is overdue by 21 days.

Library Instruction — Mark your calendar!

From Sept. 16 to Oct. 17, instruction in basic library survival skills will be held in Cameron and Rutherford North Libraries. No pre-registration is required. Each 45 - minute presentation will concentrate on the use of the library catalogue system.

Cameron Library Classroom (1st floor) Mondays 1000-1100 hr.
Tuesdays 0930-1030 hr.

Rutherford North Library (3rd floor) Wednesdays 1400-1500 hr.
Thursdays 1400-1500 hr.

Drop by HUB till Saturday, for interest, and information

At the Arts Court Lounge

Take a look at the latest in telephone communications — and order your own "designer" phone from Edmonton Telephones!

At the Centre Lounge 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In two-day slots, taste drink samples from (1) Canada Dry Beverages (2) Coca-Cola Canada, and (3) Pepsi-Cola

On Saturday

A fascinating display by the Science Fiction & Comic Arts club.

Plus: on-site information on your Alberta Health Care insurance coverage, and on your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.

Enter our Mammoth Draw all month long — mail signage details all the fantastic prizes in this great giveaway!

HUB Mall

89 Avenue and 112 Street
Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Saturday