

Timothy Findley, 1930-2002

Born in 1930, celebrated Canadian author and playwright Timothy Findley died in his sleep in France on June 21, 2002.

Born into a wealthy family in Toronto's Rosedale neighbourhood, Findley began his arts career studying ballet, later becoming a successful actor appearing during the early 1950s at the Stratford Festival, in Stratford, Ontario. Findley gave up his acting career for writing around 1956 when his short story "About Effie" was published in "The Tamarack Review."

An officer of the Order of Canada, Findley received numerous awards during his writing career, including two Governor General's Awards: one for his first major literary success "The Wars" in 1977; the other for his play "Elizabeth Rex" in 2000.

Vaughan Public Libraries has numerous works of fiction and non-fiction written by Findley in its collection, in addition to a variety of resources containing literary criticism about Findley and his work.

Fiction

Dinner Along the Amazon

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

A collection of short stories.

Dust to Dust: Stories

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

Findley brings back characters from past works, such as the beautiful but troubled couple Minna and Bragg, and creates intriguing new ones like Evard and Erik Kelgard, the strange twins and their magic show. Reveals a dichotomy between the magic of life and the secrets of death.

Headhunter: A Novel

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

Lilah Kemp, schizophrenic and one-time librarian, announces she may have released the character of Kurtz from the pages of Joseph Conrad's novel Heart of Darkness. Add to this formula a couple of psychiatrists and a huge cast of secondary players set in a futuristic dystopian Toronto, and you are left with a bizarre reinterpretation of one of literature's classics.

Last of the Crazy People

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

The story of an eleven-year-old boy's private world of bewilderment and conflict. His mother won't leave her room, his adored older brother is drinking, and his father is obsessed with his family's disintegration, but seems unable to fix it. Left to himself, Hooker broods on events—and takes terrifying steps to end the confusion.

Not Wanted on the Voyage

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

Turning to one of our essential myths—the Biblical story of the Great Flood—Findley doesn't so much retell it as take our common knowledge of the Old Testament tale and give it an extraordinary twist.

Piano Man's Daughter

Timothy Findley

PB Findl

As the story opens, Lily, the heroine of this Victorian-Gothic-style novel as seen through the narrative of her son Charlie, is ending her days in an asylum; her life unfolds as a Dickensian tale of deprivation and struggle between the feminine and the coldly masculine, leading to that "madwoman in the attic" denouement.

Pilgrim

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

Famed Psychiatrist Jung treats a man after a failed suicide attempt, and listens to him recount thousands of years of experiences resulting from a life that will not let him die.

Spadework: A Novel

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

The accidental severing of a single phone line has far-reaching consequences for three lives.

Stones

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

Nine stories set mostly in Toronto, probing the dark corners of the psyche, exposing the fears and repressions of the city's inhabitants. The stories often involve characters who suddenly become aware of the irrationality lurking beneath their well-ordered lives.

The Wars

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

A young Canadian officer finds himself in the nightmare world of trench warfare, mud and smoke, chlorine gas and rotting corpses. In the midst of this world gone mad, he performs one last desperate act to declare his commitment to life in the midst of death. Winner of a Governor General's Award.

You Went Away: A Novella

Timothy Findley

FIC Findl

An evocative and haunting novella of love, infidelity and the ideals of love set in 1942 wartime Canada.

Anthologies

74: New Canadian Stories

ed. by David Helwig

FIC Seven

Includes "The Book of Pins" by Timothy Findley.

Any Time at All: And Other Stories

Joyce Marshall

PB Marsh

Selected, and with an afterward by, Timothy Findley.

Ark in the Garden: Fables for Our Times

ed. by Alberto Manguel

FIC Ark

Includes "The Ark in the Garden" by Timothy Findley.

Drama

Can You See Me Yet?: A Play

Timothy Findley

819.254 Findl

In 1938, in a world about to go to war, an Ontario insane asylum appears to offer sanctuary to an assortment of characters, until one begins to confuse fellow inmates with members of her own ill-fated family.

Elizabeth Rex

Timothy Findley

819.254 Findl

In this Governor-General Award winning play, William Shakespeare and the formidable Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I, are brought together in a remarkable encounter on the night of April 22, 1616, the night the Queen's lover is to be executed by the Queen's decree.

Stillborn Lover

Timothy Findley

819.254 Findl

The abrupt call of a Canadian ambassador from his post, the mysterious death of a Russian youth found murdered in a Moscow hotel room, and the ambitions of an Ottawa diplomat—Findley's play explores the darker side of loyalty and commitment.

Trials of Ezra Pound

Timothy Findley
819.254 Findl

Inspired by a hearing that took place to see if the poet Ezra Pound was mentally capable of standing trial, after being arrested on charges of treason for broadcasting Fascist propaganda by radio to the United States during the Second World War. In 1946, he was acquitted, but declared mentally ill and committed to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Non-Fiction

From Stone Orchard: A Collection of Memories

Timothy Findley
819.354 Findl

Expanded versions of columns originally published in Harrowsmith Magazine.

Inside Memory: Pages from a Writer's Workbook

Timothy Findley
819.354 Findl

Invites the reader to share Findley's life and work. Drawing from personal journal entries and eclectic reflections, recollections and even an out-take from an early novel, the author shares his extraordinary life. From his early days as an actor in London's West End, through to his transition to a writer, Findley entertains with the fascinating people and real life settings that have shaped his life.

Timothy Findley

(videorecording)
819.354 Findl-T

Interview with Timothy Findley originally broadcast in 1989 on the CTV Television program "People to People" with host Linda Feige.

Literary Criticism

Conversations with Canadian Novelists

ed. by Donald Cameron
819.3009 Camer

Includes a conversation with Findley.

Front Lines: The Fiction of Timothy Findley

Lorraine Mary York
819.354 Findl-Y

Introducing Timothy Findley's 'The Wars': A Reader's Guide

Lorraine M. York
819.354 Findl-Y

Moral Metafiction: Counter Discourse in the Novels of Timothy Findley

Donna Palmateer Penny
819.354 Findl-P

Paying Attention: Critical Essays on Timothy Findley

ed. by Anne Geddes Bailey & Karen Grandy
819.1854 Findl-P

Praying for Rain: Timothy Findley's 'Not Wanted on the Voyage'

Donna Palmateer Pennee
819.354 Findl-P

Timothy Findley

Diana Brydon
819.354 Findl-B

Timothy Findley: Stories From a Life

Carol Roberts
819.354 Findl-R

Writers

ed. by Janice Parker
J 819.09 Parke
Includes chapter on Timothy Findley.

Writing on Trial: Timothy Findley's 'Famous Last Words'

Diana Brydon
819.354 Findl-B

Web Sites

Canadian Literature: A Quarterly of Criticism & Review

<http://www.canlit.ca>

Contains a number of critical reviews of Findley's work (use the "Search" function to locate articles).

Interview: Timothy Findley

<http://www.januarymagazine.com/profiles/timothyfindley.html>

A re-posted and updated 1995 interview with the author featured in JanuaryMagazine.com, discussing his then most recent novel, Spadework.

Timothy Findley (1930–2002)

<http://www.nwpassages.com/findley2.asp>

Obituary and selected bibliography of books and articles about Findley and his works, published by Northwest Passages: Canadian Literature Online.

Timothy Findley: The World of 'Tiffiness'

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/obit/findley/index.html>

An online tribute to the author, with links to audio and video clips. Published by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Timothy Findley: Biography

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/3/8/t8-2008-e.html>

A biography of the author prepared by the National Library of Canada.

Premium Subscription Databases

[Literature Resource Center](#)

A Web-accessible database subscribed to and paid for by VPL that includes a few articles pertaining to Findley's work. Use your valid VPL library card number as the password to access this database.