

Romany Theatre Company

Atching Tan Project

Reminiscence Interview – Transcription of Edited Interview

Date of Interview	Interviewer	Interviewee	Age Range of Interviewee	Duration of Edited Recording
1-5-09	I	Kirsty		

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	I	What was life like for you when you was growing up? Do you remember anything special? Things you used to do? Things like that.
	Kirsty	Erm not really apart from going 'op picking and things like that.
	I	Ah that comes under the next one. What kind of work did you do?
	Kirsty	Pea picking, strawberry picking, plum picking.
	I	Which was your favourite?
	Kirsty	Strawberries
	I	Why was that? (Laughs)
	Kirsty	Cos you get to eat 'em an' all (laughs)
	I	Ah and how old was you when you started work, this kind of work?
	Kirsty	Dunno about 9, 10?
	I	Can you remember anything special that you would do on them days?
	Kirsty	Pelt one another with the plums in the plum field.
	I	Eww! (Laughs) that was fun?
	Kirsty	Yeah
	I	Did anybody get hurt?
	Kirsty	No
	I	Ah
	Kirsty	Not one once.
	I	So what did you used to do? Did you used to go up trees? climb up? Can you give us picture of what it was like?
	Kirsty	There was once when we went to a turnip field and me mum and dad was turniping, but I was only little and a tree fell down 'cos there was thunder the night before and we all played in the tree and we made a little 'ouse out of it.
	I	Oh that's nice.
	Kirsty	(Laughs) Yeah.
	I	Ah I like that story. What did you live in, in those days? Was it wagon, trailer house or... Trailer.
	Kirsty	And in which part of East Anglia did you travel?
	I	Wales, St Neots, Cambridge.
	Kirsty	So all over?
	I	Sort of yeah. St Neots round there.
01:42	Kirsty	Ok Changing times then. Umm have things changed for you as a traveller over the years?
	I	Has anything changed for you, you being a young traveller?
	Kirsty	Erm, yeah we don't go Potato picking and stuff like that no more; we don't do plums no more.
	I	Now whys that?
	Kirsty	Erm don't know really 'cos I don't think there's so much money in it anymore. Err not much work
	I	And any other changes that you can think of that might have made life better or worse?
	Kirsty	Mm, I dunno really.
	I	Ok, that's fine. Can you think of anything that's been the biggest change for you?
	Kirsty	Umm moving here.
	I	In the house?

12:17	Kirsty	Yeah we know what they mean.
	I	Ok. What is the role of a travelling woman in the travelling community?
	Kirsty	Clean, wash up, look after her man and children. Stay at home.
	I	And are women happy with this?
	Kirsty	No (laughs) not at all.
	I	Why not.
	Kirsty	Cos all the men get to go out and do what they want and the women sit at home cleaning, looking after the men, looking after the children, they in't got a life, in't right.
	I	And is that just now or has it always been this way?
	Kirsty	Umm I think it's always been this way. It's still the same now but a couple of them in there do go out and work. Like there's a lady that, Linda knows I think, she drives a juggernaut doesn't she.
	I	So basically it's the traditional roles for the travelling women always?
	Kirsty	Yeah
	I	And what about the travelling children? Are they brought up the same way?
	Kirsty	Traditionally?
	I	Yeah pretty much I think.
13:25	Kirsty	What defines a traveller? Is it what you are or what you do?
	I	What I am. I am a traveller, its in me blood. It's who I am, how I've been brought up.
	Kirsty	What do you really want in life?
	I	Err what do I really want? I don't know, what do you mean?
	Kirsty	What do you want from life? What do you want to do?
	I	Umm, Id like to get an education without going to school with all them people and not be... not be that sit at home woman with all the children looking after a man and the man going out and leaving her, no. I'd rather live my life first.
	Kirsty	Do you stop being a traveller if you settle down in a house?
	I	No, not at all. Because you're still a traveller inside in't ya. It's the way you've been brought up not where you live.
	Kirsty	Can a person who lives in a house all their lives move into a caravan and become a traveller?
	I	No
	Kirsty	Why not?
	I	Because they weren't brought up like that. It ain't... they ain't got no right to do that really.
	Kirsty	Its not their heritage?
	I	No its not their heritage.
14.26	Kirsty	Are you proud of being a traveller?
	I	Yep.
	Kirsty	Why?
	I	Because that's who I am. That's how I've been brought up and I like about it.

Key Timing Index	
Time	Topic
00:00	Past Times
01:42	Changing Times
02:50	Racism
04:50	Education

05:39	Future Changes
06:41	Values
07:56	Language
09:23	Differences between Travellers and Non-travellers
10:24	Work & Discrimination
12:17	Women's Role
13:25	Future
14.26	End