

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
February 2010	DL	PL		4.55

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
0.00	PL	Mainly I've lived down here with my mum and dad. Worthing in Sussex, you know, moved from place to place, but we always lived in a house but most recently I've live in a trailer. I lived in Peterborough for 11 years and even when I lived here, like when I was at school I used to go up to my uncle George's up in Oxford all summer and work with the girls, from when I had my kids. But I went up to Peterborough for nearly 11 years and I just recently come back and now I am living in a trailer. Which I never done before apart from when we lived in the chalet, when my mum and dad was building the house. It was on a private bit of land of my dads.
0.35		I've done everything. I've done, I've cleaned toilets, worked out in the fields, I've worked behind the bar, I've run my own pub. I've worked in retail, shops in shopping centres, like managerial posts, I've pretty much done everything. Whenever I've needed to work I've found a job and turned my hand to it. Some skilled, some non-skilled. Usually talk my way into it because I haven't got any, well I do have skills now on paper, I've got quite a few qualifications but I didn't have when I was younger and er, yeah I've done everything I think. Everything I can think of.
1.02		I went school but it didn't suit me and I got chucked out. I did go back to college and to do further education afterwards. And I've done day courses and stuff, but as up to 16, I didn't really go to school much, and as I say, I got kicked out. A few friends that I've still got. A couple of really good friends that I got from being at school but as far as education goes, no I don't think I did really. A few things that I refer back to but nothing specific and nothing, nothing that outstanding because I didn't enjoy school. I did in primary school but as soon as I got to secondary school I hated it more often than I liked it.
1.40		Because though kids can be nasty, usually find its stuff they've been spoon fed by the parents and usually because we had a nicer car or nicer clothes, and used us as being gypsies or travellers, usually dirty gypsy as an excuse to be nasty to us mainly because they were jealous. And probably us much from teachers as other kids. Because you just get it where ever you go but you find its from the most unlikely sources usually. Fortunately for me I was one of 5 weren't I, and my mum was very 'hands on' anyway and so they didn't get away with it for long. But yes, definitely, and as I say more from the teachers and that, than from other kids. I think its just acceptable to call you a pikey. And there are two words that I find always go far to easily together with being a gypsy, you are either a thief or you are dirty. Of course that does apply but not to everyone. And its just acceptable, you know, in a police station, in a shop, in a school, anywhere. People want to call Pikey, no-one bats an eye lid. And its alright. But its not.
2.45		I think its got harder. You know, I mean, coming from Worthing, I probably knew all the travellers around there most of whom are settled, you know, in bricks and mortar. Not in trailers. Erm to going up to Peterborough where there seems to be a lot more travellers, a lot more sites, and the travellers are a lot more evident. And of course we've got the introduction of al the immigrants from the continent. The other travellers that are coming across here. And they are bringing , obviously, their culture with them,

4.00		<p>which is a lot stronger than ours because we are lot more integrated I think, and used to the kids going to school and mixing in basically. Not losing your identity but not being so easily identified, if you like. But, you know, the ones who are coming over here are obviously Roma and peoples attitude, it's become a lot more acceptable to have a go and them and they link everyone together. But we are all different. But it has changed. There's a lot less opportunities. Things that we are used to doing, like my nanny, my granny, when they were kids and growing into adults they worked out in the fields. But all that kind of work is dying out now. And, so you know, even that's changed. But, yes it has changed a lot.</p> <p>I couldn't say anything specific but , just within our family all the figure heads are going, like the older members of the family going. I think the family looses its way a bit. Cos there's things that happen now that just wouldn't have happened cos they wouldn't have got away with it years ago. So within our family things have changed a hell of a lot. So, just try and instil some of it to our children so that it isn't lost totally. All day long and every day of the week, every day I live my life I'll be proud to be what I am. I'm proud of a lot of things. I'm proud, you know, of my kids. I'm proud to be me. But I am proud to be a gypsy. And even though, whenever you say I'm Romany or I'm Gypsy, well what does that exactly mean. What makes you a Gypsy? Its difficult to pin it down to a single thing, but my usual way is because I am. And that's it. I am, and I'm proud of it. So people can like it, lump it or whatever and they can take it with them on their way. But that's how I, you know, portray myself. I am a Gypsy. And I'm proud.</p>
4.55		

Key Timing Index	
Time	Topic
0.00	Accommodation
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1.02	Education
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