

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	Linda	Danny	Under 21	11:12

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	Linda	What was life like for your when you was growing up?
	Danny	Fun.
	Linda	Why?
	Danny	Cos its not like other people is it. You just enjoy yourself isn't it.
	Linda	In what way can you think of anything?
	Danny	You can do what you want.
	Linda	Freedom?
	Danny	Yeah Freedom
	Linda	And the way you live?
	Danny	Yeah
	Linda	What kind of work did you used to do?
	Danny	Field Work
	Linda	What Sort?
	Danny	Tata
	Linda	Anything else?
	Danny	Plum picking
	Linda	What did you used to do can you remember?
	Danny	Pick 'tatas and tip um. Pick 'em and put 'em in the baskets then put them in the 'tata hoppers.
	Linda	Ah! What did you enjoy about that? Or was it just the money?
	Danny	Money (laughs)
	Linda	How old was you when you ya' know when you started this sort of work? Can you remember?
	Danny	Er. 7 I think.
	Linda	When you started?
	Danny	Roughly.
	Linda	And did you live in a wagon, trailer, house?
	Danny	Trailer
	Linda	Which part of East Anglia did you travel?
	Danny	All of it (laughs)
	Linda	All over?
	Danny	Yeah.
	Linda	And have things changed for you being a traveller over the years?
	Danny	What do you mean by that?
	Linda	Has anything changed for you, you know, in the way you live or you know ...?
	Danny	Yeah you can't pull about anywhere anymore.
	Linda	Why
	Danny	Because the council kick up too much of a fuss about it.
	Linda	What do they do?
	Danny	Come and Move you on and also bank the place and so you can't pull on side of roads anymore.
	Linda	What do you feel about that? (laughter) Without the swear word.
	Danny	They're assholes.
	Linda	Which changes do you think have been for the better and which for the worst?

Danny	Dunno
Linda	No, that's fine. Can you think of anything that has been the biggest change as being a traveller?
Danny	Racism
Linda	Racism? That's changed its got worse, better?
Danny	It's just got worse and worse.
Linda	Yeah, that's what we're going to come on to. Did you and your family face racism when you was growing up.
Danny	Yeah
Linda	How
Danny	Prejudice
Linda	What forms what sort of things
Danny	Oh dear, people saying you're a gypsy, you're a pikey and things like that. At the end of the day we ain't no different are we?
Linda	No. Was it just name calling or was it other things as well?
Danny	Just name calling mainly
Linda	I'd call it name-calling but its just as bad as anything else, yeah so it was name-calling and things like that.
Danny	Yeah
Linda	Do you and your family face racism now?
Danny	Yeah from like gorgers and that lot.
Linda	What do they do? Do they do the name-calling?
Danny	Yeah.
Linda	And have you got any experiences where they've done it?
Danny	What do you mean?
Linda	Can you give me an experience where they've come up and done it to you or your family and things like that?
Danny	Yeah they went around calling my sisters names and that the old boy said he was going to beat my sister up and that. So we went round there and sorted it out with him and then they kept going and that load of shit and then we got locked up for stuff we didn't do.
Linda	Just because you're a traveller?
Danny	Yeah.
Linda	And they knew that?
Danny	Yeah.
Linda	Do you think that you face racism more today or less today than in the past?
Danny	Still the same in it.
Linda	Yeah. Education. Did you go to school?
Danny	Yeah.
Linda	Did you enjoy it?
Danny	No.
Linda	Why?
Danny	'Cos it was boring.
Linda	What didn't you like and what did you like about school?
Danny	Sitting behind desks. I didn't like it at all. It bored me to death. In the playground it was all right if you had your own people to go about with you.
Linda	As in the sense of? Did you mix? You know Travellers, non-travellers?
Danny	There was a few gorgers out there that was all right, but still don't get on with them properly.
Linda	Do you think education is good?
Danny	Yeah if you can learn.
Linda	And would you when you have children, send you're children to school?
Danny	I don't know I ain't met a girl or nothing (laughs)
Linda	How do you see life changing for travellers in the future?
Danny	Not be able to pull around or nothing. Cos there in't nothing what they can do is there? They plan on building sites, but there ain't no hope is there?

Linda	Do you think anything good is going to happen for the future of the travellers?
Danny	Don't know.
Linda	You're not sure? Can you see what anything bad happen for the future for us?
Danny	Yes not being able to pull anywhere.
Linda	So not having anywhere to live?
Danny	No.
Linda	What would you say are travellers values? What do travellers most think are important?
Danny	Children.
Linda	Children? Family? What is the most important thing to you?
Danny	Family.
Linda	Family again. Is that 'cos of what the culture is?
Danny	Yeah family and girlfriend and that and that's about it.
Linda	What do you think non-travellers; gorgers views are? What do they value?
Danny	What to me or what they think of us?
Linda	Any, either?
Danny	They think we're bad and all that shit. When they're there it isn't there. Most of them are just as bad.
Linda	What would travellers benefit from the gorger community? What would they benefit from it?
Danny	What do you mean?
Linda	What things can gorgers do that would help travellers?
Danny	Stop being racist.
Linda	That's a biggy. Are you aware and do you speak Romani?
Danny	Err little bit.
Linda	How many words do you know?
Danny	Err dunno.
Linda	Did you and your family speak more Romani to you when you was a child?
Danny	Yeah.
Linda	Do you think the language is dying out?
Danny	Yep.
Linda	Why?
Danny	I Dunno. It seems to be dying quite a bit. You don't hear them talk like they used to talk.
Linda	Would you like to bring it back?
Danny	Yep
Linda	Would you like everyone to learn it like French you know like its taught in the schools.
Danny	No
Linda	What would you like?
Danny	The travellers to keep their traveller lingo.
Linda	So it just stays with the traveller community
Danny	Yeah
Linda	Can you tell us some memories of what you have of your travelling life style? You know, your childhood? Can you remember anything specific, you know, when you're moving, you know, things like that?
Danny	Yeah, used to be at all the seashores. Used to enjoy yourselves. Used to have fun.
Linda	Were they happy?
Danny	Yeah.
Linda	Can you remember what the most important thing about it was?
Danny	Not really.
Linda	What do you think is the main difference between Travellers and Gorgers in their childhood?
Danny	Gorgers too strict
Linda	You reckon
Danny	Yeah
Linda	What about travellers?
Danny	They are strict but not like the gorgers, they take it too far.
Linda	What was the best lessons you learnt from your travellers life, you know, your

		Childhood?
	Danny	What do you mean
	Linda	What was the best thing you learnt from being a young travelling man? From your mum and Dad?
	Danny	I don't really know what to say to it.
	Linda	That's all right you don't have to answer it. What type of work did travellers used to do?
	Danny	Fieldwork in it? They've always done fieldwork haven't they?
	Linda	Can you think of anything else?
	Danny	Not really.
	Linda	What kind of work do they do now?
	Danny	Dunno, because there in't no fieldwork about is there?
	Linda	Would you like to try a different form of employment? Anything different? What would you like to do for the future instead of the classical stuff?
	Danny	Just the trees and field work and that
	Linda	That's basically what you would like to do.
	Danny	Yeah and scrap
	Linda	What's stopping you doing that?
	Danny	No licence.
	Linda	Ah that's a big one. Do you know or have you ever experienced discrimination at work for being a traveller?
	Danny	What do you mean discrimination?
	Linda	You know has anybody basically its racism but because you're a traveller they pick on you at work things like that or if they know you're a traveller they sack you and things like that.
	Danny	Probably, because if I go for a job I'll tell them I'm a traveller, so no I in't been took on for no jobs so.
	Linda	Oh so you're straight up and straight away you tell 'em you're a traveller? And nobody has ever asked you back?
	Danny	No.
	Linda	What's you're travellers attitude to the non-travelling community and has that changed over time.
	Danny	What do you mean by that?
	Linda	What do they think basically what do travellers think of non- travellers which is the gorgers? (Without swearing)
	Danny	Oh I don't know.
	Linda	Do you reckon any of its changed over time that travellers are always thought the same or not?
	Danny	Yeah I think they're the same I just don't think make a (muffled)
	Linda	What the Travellers or the Gorgers?
	Danny	Gorgers.
	Linda	Is there any racism in the travelling community against those that are not of the travelling community?
	Danny	If they're racist to us then we'll be racist back so yeah.
	Linda	What is the role of women in the travelling community?
	Danny	What do you mean by that?
	Linda	What does the women do you know within the family? Do they... are they the mums and the carers or are they the workers or do they do exactly what the men do in your family?
	Danny	Well people are (muffled) that's different. Whatever my girlfriend wants to do I'll let her go and do it.
	Linda	But in the broader sense do you reckon in the old travelling community what it is more?
	Danny	The woman used to stay at home a lot and do the cooking and the cleaning.
	Linda	Has that changed over time or is that the same now?
	Danny	Err that's changed a bit.
	Linda	It's changed a little?
	Danny	Yeah.
	Linda	What makes you a traveller?

11:12	Danny	Being brought up with travellers and things like that man. I don't know how to say it.
	Linda	That's fine. What do you want from life?
	Danny	What do I want in life umm plenty of money. (laughter)
	Linda	Do you stop being a traveller if you're Settled down in a house?
	Danny	No way.
	Linda	Why?
	Danny	Cos your still. You've always been brought up in a traveller. Just 'cos you're going into a house doesn't mean you're a gorger. If a gorger goes into a trailer they in't a traveller.
	Linda	Whys that?
	Danny	'Cos it ain't the way they've been brung up.

Key Timing Index	
Time	Topic
00:00	Past-Times
11:12	End