

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
11-10-11		Sinead	Dave	54	07:27
Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview			
00:00		<p>My Names Dave Rogers. I was born in Bramshaw in the New Forest. So how did your Romany Heritage suit your childhood Dave? My heritage from my mother’s family. They had a different way about them, you know what I mean, and I can see how I related to the way they were and the way they looked at things and the way they felt because they, especially my grandparents, even though obviously in later years lived in houses and all that, they still had such a sense of freedom and I've always had that since I was a child, sense of freedom or something. When I used to sit and talk to me granddad and he’d talk about his wandering days. It was magical really. I loved seeing what’s over the next hill, round the next corner and he’s exactly the same. I started to look into, because I’m a great fan of history and when I started to look into my own history I could see how I am the way I am. Going by when my granddad was telling me about his travelling days:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Back then they were more accepted and 2. They were needed. <p>Because of this they’d go around doing the seasonal work and stuff. I can only go by my family you know. They were quite honourable people, so I think the whole attitude towards them over the years, I think has got a bit worse. I’m afraid it makes some people get worse, you know and it’s as simple as that. But a lot of its just through ignorance; not understanding them. People just do not realise they are a race of people; they are not just somebody that’s wants to live out on the road. They are a race. They’ve got their own culture. I think its, yeah the modern world ruining their life. I mean because they like to be free which is absolutely nothing wrong with that. I mean why should you be bound by all the rules and that as long as you're a law abiding citizen you can still be free, but I'm afraid a lot people just do not understand what Romany people are about.</p>			
02:17		<p>Did you and your family experience racism when you were growing up? Not so much me, like where I was born in Bramshaw in the New Forest like a lot of the other kids in that village were also from Romany Descent and from Romany families and I mean because my older brother went to school there, they were sort of labelled oh they come from the Bramshaw gang of people and it wasn’t too bad really, it wasn’t too bad. It was all right for me, you know in my time, I've never experienced any of it. I've been quite lucky I suppose.</p>			
02:55		<p>What rules or values do you hold which you identify as coming from your Romany background? I think believe it or not one of the biggest things I hold from my Romany background is from that man up there, because he is... was as straight as an arrow. A lie would not pass his lips and I think I've got that from him. He was such a truthful man. That’s one of the biggest things I've got from him. He wasn’t ashamed of who he was. He was just a genuine human being. He was and if I told the truth of all the other people I've known in my life I've never actually known a man like him to be so straight and truthful and genuine. I think that’s what I've got from him.</p>			
03:52		<p>What memories or stories do you have of family members from previous generations who’ve lived a traveller life? Well, with my grandfather up there, I used to sit for hours talk with him about it. Once I got hooked into my own history I used to sit for hours. I wish I’d done it years ago you know but life goes on dun’ it. And you know he told me different stories about his</p>			

07:27		<p>travelling days you know all over England and right up to Scotland and he had some good old times you know. Three of them used to travel around together; three relatives. Like everyone they used to have their circle of farms they used to go to. He was telling me they were parked up somewhere and that's when they flipped a coin; head or tails whichever one it was, was to go to Scotland and that's what come up so off they went. You know that was total freedom. You know they were just free and that is what they did. They worked their way up; right up to Scotland and that's when me grandmother was pregnant with me mother. It was getting near her time and she turned around and said you know I think its time we headed back. She wanted to be with her mother down in the New forest when she had my mother, you know the babe. So that's what they did. He loved it he said he weren't at anybodies beck and call. You never worry about money or nothing. If you didn't have none you'd go out the next day and earn some. He said you always had money in your pocket, because I'm only going by his example, they always worked. I've even heard me father talk about gypsies what he's worked with and they work like Trojans. Perhaps that's where I got it from because I worked from an early age you know.</p> <p>The stories of his travelling days and even he said they were the best days of his life. I think one of the memorable (well its not a story as such) and I think I've spoke about it before, but it was when they were travelling. My nan had a little buggy and me granddad had the shires with the wagon. She used to go on ahead because as I've said they know the spot they're going to pull in and so she used to go on ahead and he was saying, this was after me grandmother had died actually. This was getting near his hundredth birthday actually because sometimes he used to sit there and talk to me about me nan and that because obviously he missed out on the other conversation you know with his children and he used to say like he'd say as he sat there looking at me because he had very deep blue piercing eyes you know. And he just looked straight at ya and he said like he sez I can just see her now he sez we were going along such and such a road She said right I'll go on ahead and as she went up the road in her buggy she was turning round and waving to him and you could see it in his face, you know what I mean. So I think that's the most memorable story. You know they have stories about winter, picking the hop fields and he told me one funny story when the big mighty I am man was throwing his around and so he got the travellers justice and he weren't around the next morning, you know. So it was just seeing the glee in his eye talking about his travelling days that used to affect me that actually the stories because he couldn't read and write you know he had total memory and when someone like that is talking about memories they're reliving them at the same time. Yeah I think those sort of things mean more to him.</p>
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Key Timing Index	
Time	Topic
00:00	Past Time
02:17	Discrimination
02:55	Values
03:52	Past Times & Traveller Stories
07:27	End