

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
24-08-11		Sinead	Jessiy	52	09:32
Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview			
00:00		<p>My name is Jessiy Allgood and I was born on 19th March 1959. We moved like from place to place. We never stopped long anywhere. There wouldn't be a place wouldn't let us. Dad was a scrap metal dealer. He used to go our calling and we used to stay in and do the housework. It was hard. We had to beg our water to drink. We found some places we could stay a bit longer than usual but very rarely, very rarely. As soon as like we pulled off we had police at the door, we'd have to move on. It was hard. In this old time I found since I was younger and I was growing up a lot of travellers are going in houses which in my, when I was younger was very rarely sawed at and where cases have got so its so very difficult for travellers to move around they've found that they've either had to go in houses or on the sites or otherwise they wouldn't survive. So the travelling way of life is slowly dying out, because the travellers are going in houses, the kids are going to school and our way of life, they're not learning our way of life. They're learning a new way. And that side of its gone and I think travellers are becoming more posh, more up their own, more money because their going in houses and they're sort of like turning their backs on their traditional way of life. In my time travellers would help one another. They'd be there for one another and they'd always talk to you. Now a days, you see travellers that you know and they've got like gold and stuff. They won't give you the time of day. And travellers are changing and it's changing a lot. I mean the young ones are not like travellers. They're like different people. My daughter she don't know my way of life. The way I was brought up which was the traditions I was brought up with. It's different, totally different. When I was younger we weren't allowed a boyfriend because my mum would not allow that and I never had a boyfriend 'til I was 34 and I ended up marrying him. My daughter she's allowed a boyfriend. We weren't allowed to go with a boy. If we was we had a chaperoned, but my daughters not like that and that way has gone. Completely gone it's changed so much.</p>			
03:06		<p>We'd pull off the side of the road and we'd have people from the villages ride by pelt out caravans, call us names, they'd write on me dad's motor you know 'dirty gypsy scum' and that was nearly everywhere we went we've found that. I've found it here. I've suffered a lot of racists since I've been here I've had all round me house all beat up, I've have me garden all beat up, I've had them know at me door 'dirty gypsy scum'. I've got one racists that lives next door to me, the other side. He's had the council try to get me out. He's threatened to come round and blow our dirty pikey heads off if the council don't do something. So you know yeah it is very bad. It's slowly got worse.</p>			
04:06		<p>I never went to school. I never had the chance because we never stayed in one place long enough to go to school. I'd a liked it. I'd a loved to went to school and I'd a liked to study music because I like music but never had the opportunity. My school was a potato field, strawberry field or at home doing washing, learning to cook, learning to live. When I was about 15 we used to go to potato picking in Royston and there was a lady what lived in an house there and she tried to get us in the local school, but the school wouldn't take us because we was travellers. That's me and my cousin and she decided to teach us to read and we was there 6 weeks but we never went every day because we had to go to work. But we went like on a Saturday and a Sunday for an hour and within that 6 weeks of leaving Royston I could read. She taught me to read, but I never went to school afterwards. I can read fine, but I can't write very good, I can't spell that good. But within that 6 weeks I learnt to read and I was the only one in my family that could read. And I decided like when I got married and had kids that I wanted my children to have an</p>			

06:22		<p>education because I could see things changing so much. Without an education they wouldn't get no where. I want them to have a good job, be happy in what they do, because my way of life is dying out that much that there wouldn't be anything out there for them anymore. But I have been offered chances to go to night school and stuff like that, but being the person I am I'm very withdrawn. I prefer my own company. I don't like mixing with people much and that is why I've said no to it.</p> <p>I think its what you do. So different the way of life. Its what they do its not you know... Its what they do. Its not how you look and its something that is born in ya. You're born with it. You get a sense a you know what you got to do. I mean, when I was growing up, when my dad and we was all little and if I'd been took away from my mum and dad and put with another family, I'd a been brought up like in their way. But its how you're born and what you're born into. If... Well I can't.... Like gorgers; if I was brought up in a gorger family I'd a been brought up to go to school, when I was 16, leave home. But with travellers its not like that. You're born how to get you're living, umm how to keep house if you're a gal, err washing, cooking, we're taught how to cook, look after kids. That is a gals way of life. And with a boy they're learnt out with their dad's and they'll learn how to get their living, er crafts, different crafts to do like tarmac, roofing, tree surgeons and stuff. Its what you're born into. And I was born into learning to cook. I could cook from the age of 7. I could do 2 lines of washing by hand when I was 9 and all the house work, cleaning and scrubbing and then after then would be field work from 5 in the morning to about half five at night. That is what I was taught. So yeah you are born into it.</p>
08:18		<p>Memories with me mum, when I was with me mum and she used to take me out on the street with her and show me how she used to call for a living with a basket with lace and combs and she'd tell me what I had to say at the door, how to be polite ya know to people when they answered the door. And I can see me an her walking down this road. She was laughing and like these cowslips, things in this basket. It's a lovely memory, lovely thought. You know my mum took me out, taught me to do that. And me dad, sitting down with me dad, learning me to count money and what it was and what it meant. Loads of memories. And being like with my granny and granddad when they used to move with the horse and wagons through the villages and we used to see people come out and give like the horses water and stopping to like just feel the horses and that. Lovely memories. And I got some bad memories, but me happy ones I prefer to remember.</p>
09:32		

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