

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	Sinead	Pamela	21-25	11:36

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	Pamela	My names Pamela and I'm 24. I was born in '85. I'm 24 years old.
	Sinead	What was life like for you when you were growing up Pamela?
	Pamela	Pretty normal I think. It was fun. I had loads of friends. Mixed and Mingled a lot.
	Sinead	And I guess because you're quite young you weren't really involved in field-work?
00:17	Pamela	No not when I was young but as I got older till about the age of 15, 16 I started going off to do a bit of factory work. For field-work I did used to pick the 'tatas up but I would probably have done that for a few days and wimped out. I have done strawberries, (that's not too bad, nice in the summer), I've picked peas (they're all right) and beans. So I've done a bit of field-work, but not as much, I mainly did the factory work. I thought it was easier.
	Sinead	What sort of work did you do in the factory then?
	Pamela	Umm I worked in a chicken factory just like putting the meat into trays. Just line work you know just with other people on the lines just doing bits and pieces like that. I use to work in a mushroom factory. That was a nice job inside in the warm and just cutting mushrooms all day. That was nice. But yeah I've had a few jobs actually when I sit an think about it.
01:07	Sinead	How have things changed for you as a traveller over the years?
	Pamela	I don't think they've changed dramatically for me really because I mainly spent my life on a site and we used to move a little for about a week or two and things like that but it wasn't until I got married that I started to move about and moving about is really, really good I do love it. Where you've been travelling all day so like from 9 o'clock in the morning when you've been put off till about 7 or 8 o'clock at night and we pulled into a field and we got there we was about half an hour and they was going to put us off again so we literally wound the back jacks down and put the kettles on making noodles and god knows just as quick as possible so you're feeding the children washing them as quickly as possible so you can put them back in their car seats so you can move on again, but luckily enough we got until the next morning so that wasn't too bad, but sometimes you can get a week 2 weeks depending on obviously the owners of the fields and that and how they respond to you. For the first year I think we moved basically Bournemouth Brighton all the bottom end of the country to Plymouth and then sometimes like they'll just get in their heads and they'll move right up to Manchester. Like last year I went to Blackpool, stayed there for about a w... I think it was from the Friday to the Monday and then we came home but that was because it was getting a bit too much up there they was not.. they don't want you there and that's it.
	Sinead	So you feel there's more acceptance in this part of the country then?
	Pamela	Yeah there i... I think because ... I'm not saying there's more down here but I think the groups of travellers that there is. Last year we pulled onto a field and there was about 5 or 6 lots of us and it was a great big field, but we was there for about 2 or 3 weeks and within that 2 or 3 weeks there had been like about 10 different lots of travellers that had pulled on, gone off, come on, gone off, so there was like continuously loads of people around. So you do get to mix with lots of people because like they'll have a fire of a night-time. Have a little drink or like a little get together and obviously other people that you don't even know that you haven't been moving with you but because they're there they'll come round the fire and you'll get to know everybody. Its nice to get up in the

03:47	Sinead Pamela	<p>morning and fry your breakfast on the pan outside, proper get back into the olden days. That was a big ting for me because Id never actually done that until I got married it was weird to see how the young travellers of the day like the old days and that sort of thing. Like boiling pots on the fire and making their stews you know bits and pieces like that. Its like really a big thing to have a swing pan and a kettle and a pot now do you know what I mean?</p> <p>Did you and your family face racism when growing up?</p> <p>I don't think so much as racism because when I started school I did start from like nursery and the children I growed up with like they 'cos they go up in classes the same and it wasn't so bad for me, but I did get the name of Gypsy Pamela. I was known as that but it wasn't so much of a big deal for me because they were me friends and I didn't take them like that. I was never called old pikey and stinking gypsy and things like that until I went to another school. I went to Claydon because I didn't really like school at the time because I think when children actually go to school its alright until they hit the high school and then at that age because they're starting to get involved with the boys when they start going off to work with their dads, you know, and just getting their independence and the girls just want to stay home and clean up and get the wife... get that wifey feel do you know what I mean? Brining them up in that way. That when you're at school when you can imagine walking around at 14 year old in a school uniform, do you know what I mean? You get racism on both sides because for one you're being like a gorger for going to school at the age that you are, the size that you are, going to school. Then at school its like Oh look at her putting her gypsy and 'orse. When I went to Claydon there was 4 girls and that and they all wanted to fight me. I said Ill fight you all like one at a time but they didn't want to do that they didn't want to fight they just wanted to bully me all the time do you know what I mean? They didn't want to ... but being travellers I think that fighting is one of the ways that they sort their things rather than just talking which is how I was at school. Terrible. I mustn't think about it. Violence is not the way.</p>
05:29	Sinead Pamela	<p>So it sounds like you did have quite a lot of education.</p> <p>Yeah I did. I went to school from starting what is it about 4, 5 right the way up, I went to high school and that's where it turned a little bit for me. Like the young girls was on the site didn't actually go to school and me in a school uniform, do you know what I mean it was a bit... So then I did have a lot of a break, I did have about 2 years break where I didn't want to go to school, but then in the end I ended up going to Parkside and I got a little few qualifications, I don't think they're any good. I did do a couple of GCSEs. I think it helps, but I think it's the mind frame that you're in And also trying to break away... I do ...I wanted to be.... I did want them qualifications, but luckily enough I had the up bringing where my mum was mix with all walks of life and me dad was the same 'You can be what ever you want to be', but still you just fall into that pattern of everyone else, your friends.</p>
	Sinead Pamela	<p>Did you enjoy school?</p> <p>Not really, not really. Because I think it didn't have what I wanted. It's like being 2 different people. One you want to go off to college and you want to have a good job and you want all that and then on the other hand you don't want to be different you want to be married you want to have the children you want that wife role that obviously the travellers way is. I think being a traveller is a way of life. It's a culture, like with Muslims they've got their culture and their beliefs and their wayeses. Err with travellers I think they got their beliefs and their wayeses about them. I don't think there's a great big difference between us and people that live in the houses. I don't think there is. Because brought up like me as I say we're all human beings and things like that, but I just think the beliefs and the way you fetch your children up is just different, you know what I mean? Just a culture I think.</p>
07:40	Sinead Pamela	<p>What do you really want in life and why do you think you want that?</p> <p>I want to actually go to college and I want to learn to be something. To be actually not just be a mum at home because it does get boring after a little bit. And then I have to think that when my kids get bigger I... because I don't want to, 'cos like with me mum she didn't want us to follow her route do you know what I mean of just getting married</p>

08:55	Sinead Pamela Sinead Pamela	<p>hand having children and that is it. There's no further forward. Where as I don't want my children to fall into that. I want my boy to go to college and I want him to learn to be something. I want my girl to go to college and learn to be something. I don't want her to fall into that trap. But I think also I don't want her to think that when she gets to 17, 18 year old that's the time that she needs to get married that's the time that she needs to start her family. I want her to think that when she gets to about 25. So hopefully if I do get to college, umm I show her that you can be something other than just a mum, you know what I mean. That you can have kids when you are about 25. You can settle down then. So I want to be an example to my children.</p> <p>Would you say you're proud to be a traveller?</p> <p>Yes I am proud. I am proud to be the traveller that I am. I can't say that I'm proud of every traveller. There's good and bad in everyone in't there. But yeah I am proud.</p> <p>How do you see life changing for travellers in the future?</p> <p>I see it changing dramatically. As actually the travelling up and down on the roads, because it's so hard now and from when my mum was growing up, she used to travel from farm to farm and work on bits and pieces like that. Where as now its more of a hobby sort of thing and just like in the 6 weeks summer holidays, you have a break and have a shift up and down. But when I think when it comes to my children having to move up and down it's going to be very hard and its gon'na... and the travelling way of life is gon'na stop. Because there's not many sites being built. So as our community as in people in houses are growing bigger they get more houses built, but when the travelling community is getting bigger not many sites is being built and if they are trying to get their land and things like that and moving on themselves. They're not getting passed. I don't think it will last that many more years.</p>
10:43	Sinead Pamela Sinead Pamela	<p>So what would you like to see for generations in the future?</p> <p>I think I would like to see like our ways is just encouraged a little bit. You know just not so much, I'm not saying not so much racism and everything like that, because usually when you move around you don't really get... you do get like verbally abused an things like that, but you still get left alone. But I would like it to be easier for the children when they do get older for them to move around. Even if it's only on little, I know it sounds stupid, but like on fields. It is lovely just to move around, because being tied to the site or being tied in a house is just not a travellers way. They like to move. They like the freedom of like just hooking up one day and just seeing where the road takes them. It's nice. But it is hard.</p> <p>Can you share a fond memory or tell a favourite story from your traveller life?</p> <p>So we had this little old tourer and I came home for the night to see me mum, but I got a phone call to say the people from the housing had been throwing bricks at the trailers and it was such a relief that I didn't have my good trailer pulled up. Because obviously any little dent or any crack or scratch is a lot of money knocked off. Because that's your home and they are not cheap. I thought to me'self how would they feel if I started pelting their windows out? Because we was like in a field, nowhere near them. They'd literally come out of their house, walked a little way to actually do that and I thought its not on. But then again I think that's just the way some people are and just let them get on. Like good and bad in everybody. No, I do love moving around. I do. It is lovely. The freedom!</p>

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