

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 |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2010 | | Damian Le Bas | S.L | 60-65 | 04:32 |
| Key timing | Initial of person speaking | Transcription of Interview | | | |
| 0.00 | S.L | <p>Travellers have probably got, if we look around the world, Travellers in this country have got an easier time than they have in say Europe. We're probably still suffering from racial prejudices but we've got more we've got easier lives. We're living in houses, we've got showers, we've got everything on tap and we've got everything that everyone else has got. And, plus other people wouldn't realise it but we've got a rich heritage which I sometimes think the prejudice arises because people do get jealous because they think we've got such a free and easy style of life. But at the end of the day, we've got our problems behind our doors the same as what they've got even though they don't seem to realise it.</p> <p>People within the travelling community. I think things have got worse because the people aren't as close. Where they used to be more free and easy and they'd go for miles on whether it be on a bus, walk or train to visit each other and there'd be more sharing and caring of each other. And people are very selfish now and you might not see people for years and it's all about materialistic things. And really when your going through life and, like now I'm in my sixties, I realise it isn't about material possessions at all. It's about the people and now we've lost the figureheads in our family and I've only got my mum and one of my uncles left now. My eldest uncle died a couple of years ago. He was 90. You had someone you could go to. And it doesn't matter that things, the world's moved on, everyday problems are the same and it was nice to be able to go to the older figureheads and be able talk to them about these things. And usually if you talk to them because they've experienced so much life, they would be able to help you through it and have an answer to your problem. So that's what's changed. People do not talk anymore. Now the older generation are gradually fizzling out and I'm becoming one of the older generation. I haven't had the experience, the hardships in life that they had to know how to solve these every day problems. The only thing is you may get the programmes on the television where they've come on, they've got it I mean the other night I was watching television and the Romany word popped up and whether it's a studio audience or whatever, they fell about in laughter. A lot of them don't realise that it is a Romany word they're using and they've spout off these words and half of them do not understand the meanings of the words. The shame is that when I was young there were people speaking pure Romany which I didn't take a lot of notice of and I wished I had, when I used to go and visit my granny and my uncles. You know and it is a shame because it is just sort of dying out. Yeah, because life is different now, there's lots of things around now that there aren't words for because they didn't exist when the language was being used so it never progressed, the language didn't. And I've found that when we've been away like when we've been in Spain or Italy and that for some unknown reason most times I get approached by a Romany to sell me something or just you know and even thought they can't speak English somewhere along there you connect with one or two words that they say you know, like, it when we went to Spain that time in one of the markets and they were arguing and we got the gist that one of them hit the other in the mouth with a shoe so we picked up a few words of the language because they were arguing and you know because you do.</p> | | | |
| 03:31 | | <p>As a child I used to try and disguise it because my life was made a misery but now I don't go to people and say 'Wey hey hold my hands up I'm a Romany' but if it gets discussed and I'm asked I will admit to it and I am proud of my heritage because I had a very hard</p> | | | |

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| 04:32 | | <p>life and I'm proud of my mum and my dad because of how hard they worked to give us the life they didn't have and it you know and it is something to be proud of and it was a very, very hard way of life and how they came through it I don't know sometimes. With no food and people wouldn't give them water and that and now I'm sort of rediscovering going back over where they travelled and that and I think 'How the hell did they survive', you know and its nice to go back to the places where they travelled and think like there's huge trees and that they walked under those trees and that and They walked under those trees and they stayed in those woods and just to get the feel if you're there you can get the feel that its nice to feel that's where they were and that in some moment in time that's where they were and your standing there.</p> |
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