

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
04/10	Interviewer (I)	Responder (R)		07:49

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	I	So what are your most positive memories about being a young traveller?
	R	Well it used to be fun, that's what I do remember. I mean not.... I never used to think much of it when we moved about as it came naturally, but when I'm in the 'ouse (I love moving in the 'ouse) but you don't realise how much things matter to you until they get took away from you. All I remember is that I had a lot of fun. When I stopped in the 'ouses, I never had a lot of fun. Anyway, didn't really mix a lot, it took me a few years to mix with the gorgias, now I don't bother really.
	I	When we talk about changes moving from a trailer to a house, what are the big things you miss?
	R	Freedom. You don't get a lot of freedom in the 'ouse. You're stuck there; you're stuck there with the people. People don't want you there anyway, 'coz they just make snide comments behind your back, going down the council, tryin' a get you kicked out. Anyway there's just no point. You go and pull down a lay-by then the council say you've got to get an 'ouse so you get an 'ouse, but then when you get an 'ouse they want to kick you out anyway, so where can you go? You can't go no-where?
	I	What sort of racism did you go through then and do you still face it now?
	R	Well, when I was in school, I remember when I was in the big school, I mean, it weren't too bad after a few year 'coz I got to know people there, 'coz I was in the house for a few year. When I first moved here it was horrible, people used to say hello to you and try and be your friend and make you feel welcome but then they'd gang up to you when you get other gorgias around you, and I weren't used to it. After a while I got used to it, but I just didn't mix with them for a few year anyway.
	I	What about education, what do you think about the education you had?
	R	I never had a chance to get it anyway, I mean, I never wanted to be anything, I didn't even want to go to school. I'd rather go to work. Sometimes I'd beg my mum not to take me to school, but at the end of the day I'm going to take me children to school, what's the point of taking children to school and they get tormented over it. I know it still happens there, but the only thing is they're clever about it now. They won't stand there half the time, teachers wont stand there and say 'you dirty old gypo' coz they know they'd get done for it, and so they do it sneaky ways. They bully you and then you lose it and you get the blame for it anyway. I don't see the point of doing it anyway, any travellers end up like gorgias soon as they go to school. They're losing it as soon as they go to that school, there's no point is there.

07:49		<p>I'd have mine home teached, 'coz they're going to get picked on rotten, learn things that don't need learning anyway 'coz they're not going to do it. I mean, no matter how determined they are, you get yourself a degree and go find yourself a job, 9 times out 10 chances you ain't going to get that job as soon as they find out what you are. I've been looking for work for about a year now, I can't get no work 'coz they know what I am. No point in denying it, but that's the way life is. People say things are changing, but they ain't. They're just sneaky about it now. Very clever.</p> <p>I What do you thinks going to happen in the future? What can you see happening?</p> <p>R I can see nothing happening apart from the travellers losing their culture and that's about it. I can't see nothing else changing and it ain't getting better for the travellers anyway.</p> <p>I Do you think there's anything the travellers can do themselves to stop losing the culture?</p> <p>R No, we're not doing it on purpose, we can't pull any where no more.</p> <p>I You're very sort of separated people who can't stand up for themselves. I'm wondering if in some way we got together, 'coz there's a lot of travellers in this country, if there could just be the one voice, or 2 or 3 voices, they'd have a lot more power.</p> <p>R Yeah, the thing is travellers don't wanna stick up for themselves; they just want to be left alone. Don't want to be irritated about; don't want people coming down or gorgias saying you can do this. They just want to go away and be left alone, that's the way you are going to keep your culture if you be left alone. If you keep getting picked and prodded, you're going to change, that's why everyone changed and lost their culture because travellers start messing with the gorgias.</p>
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Key Timing Index	
Time	Topic