

Type

Sound: .WAV

Duration

00:44:00

Project

Pass It On – Oral History Project for the Chichester Festival Theatre

Recording Date

4 September 2014

Recording Location

Interviewee's Home

Interviewee(s)

Alison Anderson (speaker, female)

Interviewer(s)

Gill Bushby (speaker, female)

Abstract

Alison Anderson born 1949, brought up as neighbour of Leslie Evershed-Martin [LEM]. Parents involved with LEM in initial stages of founding of Chichester Festival Theatre [CFT], and father was a Trustee and Board member. Comments that as a scientist he was very interested in technical aspects of building. Anecdote that when strike was threatened by lighting technicians he took beer and sandwiches to sort it out. [03:10] Remarks on how supportive LEM's wife Carol was to him [06:00] in meeting Tyrone Guthrie [TG]. Comments that the arrival of Laurence Olivier [LO] was a stroke of good fortune for CFT [07:20] Remarks that it was dress rehearsal for proposed National Theatre. Anecdote of father commenting that she might never again see so many great actors at one time, at first night of Uncle Vanya [08:40]. Remarks that CFT was locally funded [13:10]. Comments on royal visits and Gala nights [13:57]. Mentions various early productions and the actors she met [14:30] Anecdote of meeting Sybil Thorndike. [15:30] Mentions various donors to the theatre [16:00] Remarks warmly on the refurbished theatre [21:00] and the Minerva theatre. Comments that in the past, the entrances and exits and passageways in the auditorium were much used as part of the play [22:30] Comments that in some productions an upper level was used as part of the scenery, projecting above the stage. [27:00]. Remarks that in the early days, some tickets were only released on the day of performance, and people queued for them [[35:00] Comments on the differences between the two productions of "Miss Julie/Black Comedy" in 1965 and 2014 [37:00] Remarks that after a period when there were poor audiences, attendances are now up [42:00]