

Type

Sound:, WAV

Duration

00:27:51

Project

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

Recording Date

10 December 2013

Recording location

Interviewee's Home

Interviewee

Jean Skaptson (speaker, female)

Interviewer

Karen Robinson (speaker, female)

Abstract

Born 10 May 1944 Jean Skaptson [JS] grew up in West Sussex. Brief description of her fashion design education which led to experience in the costume department of Chichester Festival Theatre (CFT) in the Minerva Studios. Describes meeting husband, Stephen Skaptson, at CFT following his arrival from Stratford Ontario, Canada. (03:00) Remarks that in 1963 she gained a position at the National Theatre to work on their first production of 'Hamlet'. (06:00). Mentions enjoying being involved with first nights. Later joined the permanent staff at CFT (09:00) Comments that as Sir Laurence Olivier was director at CFT and later at the National, staff and actors would work the summer at CFT and the winter at the National. (12:00). amusing anecdote of her time in the costume department in the Minerva Studios. (18:00). Remarks working on the costumes for 'Royal Hunt of the Sun', 'Othello', 'The Chances', and 'The Broken Heart'. Comments on the method of working, with the finishing done by hand. (21:00). Mentions after she left CFT in 1965 most of the costumes were made in London with CFT maintaining a wardrobe department for alterations. (27:00).