

Type

Sound:, WAV

Duration

01:16:49

Project

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

Recording Date

28 November 2013

Recording locations

Board Room, Chichester

Interviewees

Karl Meier (speaker, male)

Interviewers

Sophie Shaw (speaker, female)

Abstract

Karl Meier[KM] mentions first association with Chichester Festival Theatre(CFT) 1979.(00:24) Mentions school visit to CFT in foundation year.(00:51) KM born Littlehampton and remained in Sussex until aged 16. KM remarks on primary school visit to CFT and his impressions of building. (01:56) Mentions career prior to working at CFT.(03:53) Mentions 1979 interview at CFT with Production Manager, Bill Green[BG].(04:56) KM remarks on job in film industry compared to CFT.(05:15) Mentions job as CFT stage crew and driver.(07:29) Brief description of career with touring panto company.(08:13) Brief description of BG's career and personality and influence on KM.(12:30) Remark about CFT buildings 1979 to 1989.(16:28) Comment on KM role and CFT London offices. (18:00) Remark about Ian Ogilvy[IO] accident in play 'The Devil's Disciple',1979.(20:33) Mentions play 'The Eagle Has Two Heads'. (21:40) Comment on scene changes and breaking down sets between performances. (21:55) Comment on different working practices in 1979 and 2013.(25:40) Mentions memories of Hayley Mills[HM] and Mel Martin[MM] in 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.(29:15) Mentions Charles Gray[CG] in 'The Man Who Came To Dinner'. (30:17) Mentions impressions of Artistic Director, Peter Dews[PD]. (31:17) Remark on workplace atmosphere.(31:31) Remark on theatre departments: electrics, sound, administrative.(34:20) Mentions General Manager, Paul Rogerson[PR] and Angela Lanyon[AL], front of house. (35:52) Remark on CFT in 1979: productions, audience, place in social scene. (37:20) Remark on KM job as Company and Stage Manager with panto company in Winter 1979-80 and return to CFT. (39:52)

Remark on major changes to CFT buildings.(41:39) Brief description of New Ventures temporary structure and contribution of volunteers, Joan and Eric who ran New Ventures [Tent] box office.(43:14) Comment on design and construction of Minerva. (47:56) Brief description of changes in working environment up to 1990.(51:06) Description of technical aspects of KM role. (55:23) Description of personnel changes including John Gale[JG], Ruth McKenzie[RM], Alan Finch[AF], Jonathan Church[JC]. (01:01:33) Comment on management of CFT and effect on audiences and staff. (01:09:16) Remarks on KM's favourite shows including 'Terra Nova' with Hywel Bennett and more recently 'Sweeney Todd'. (01:12:28) Remark on CFT building development from 2013 and effect on production.(01:15:20)