

Type

Sound:, WAV

Duration

00:51:25

Project

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

Recording Date

9 December 2014

Recording location

Sound studio, Chichester Festival Theatre

Interviewee

Rosemary Chapman (speaker, female)

Interviewer

Gill Bushby (speaker, female)

Abstract

Born 19th August 1047 in Dulwich, London. Maiden name Rosemary Webb. Description of developing interest in theatre at school in Hertford and making donation to building of CFT. (03.00) Anecdote about inviting Commander David Bird [DB], PR for CFT, to visit her school. Description of seeing 'Uncle Vanya' at CFT in 1963 and the effect on RC of sitting in the front row. (06.00) Brief Description of attending 'Othello' and 'Royal Hunt of the Sun' in 1964. Comment on DB's talk to RC's school about CFT, mentions Leslie Evershed-Martin, Tyrone Guthrie. (09.00) Description of Sir Laurence Olivier [LO] playing Othello. Remark on historical context of a white actor playing the role. Comment on reaction of CFT audience. (12.00) Description of visual impact of 'Royal Hunt of the Sun'. Mentions 'The Broken Heart', 'The Chances' and 'Uncle Vanya'. Comment on Robert Stephens' performance in 'Royal Hunt of the Sun'. (15.00) Description of RC's time at Central Drama School studying Stage Management and Technical Theatre. Description of working as Assistant Stage Manager(ASM) at CFT in 1969. (15.00) Mentions 'The Magistrate', Sir John Clements [JC], Alistair Sim [AS], Patricia Routledge. Comment on rehearsals in London. (21.00) Brief description of local rehearsal space near Eastgate. Description of ASM role. (24.00) Mentions working on sound, lights, costumes, props. Comment on lack of backstage space in original theatre at CFT. (27.00) Description of watching performance from sound box. Mentions 'Anthony and Cleopatra', JC, Margaret Leighton, Peter Dews. Description of working as prompt for 'Anthony and Cleopatra'. Mentions Carl Toms, costume designer. (30.00) Comment on comparison of working at CFT with other theatres. (33.00)

Anecdote about scene in 'The Magistrate' when chairs broke on stage. Mentions JC, Michael Aldridge, Robert Coote [RCo]. (36.00) Story about first moon landing coinciding with 1969 season. Brief description of RC's social life during that time. (39.00) Description of RC moving with 'The Magistrate' to the Cambridge Theatre in the West End as Deputy Stage Manager and appearing as understudy. Mentions RCo and AS. Remark about RC's theatre career after CFT at the National Theatre. Comment on differences of working at CFT and elsewhere. Anecdote about Carl Bernard who appeared in 'The Magistrate' and 'Anthony and Cleopatra'. (45.00) Description of dynamics and relationship between actors and backstage staff. (48.00) Comment on mutual appreciation between roles in theatre companies. Brief description of most abiding memory working on 'Anthony and Cleopatra'. (51.20)