

Interview with respondent 0728

Date: 30/6/2015

Location: Respondent's House

Interviewer: Emma Pett

Interviewer: Well, thanks very much for agreeing to do this and give up your time. So what would be helpful for the interview would be if you just began by explaining where you lived in the 60s and whether that changed throughout the decade.

Respondent: Ok, well I was born and brought up in a small village in Lancashire, between Southport and Ormakirk, but then in the late 60s I went to university in London, to Goldsmiths. So I was 10 in 1960, it was my teenage years ...

Interviewer: OK, great, so you grew up in quite a rural area, then. Was it quite a long way to the nearest cinema? How often did you go, as a young teenager in Lancashire?

Respondent: Well. It was probably about half an hour by car to town, which was Southport. More often we went by train, which also involved a short walk either end.

Interviewer: So it was quite a trek then ...

Respondent: Yes, but we still went quite often, about once a week in the early sixties, I went with my Mum and we'd do the shopping and then go and see a matinee on a Saturday afternoon. Then I started going with my friends, when I was thirteen or fourteen we'd go to a movie and then have a coffee. And sometimes, when I was a bit older, I would go on my own to see films that my friends didn't fancy watching ... or we would all go together to see something and have a drink afterwards.

Interviewer: Really? Can you remember which films you saw on your own?

Respondent: Well, I definitely saw *Midnight Cowboy* and *The Italian Job* on my own, was that the sixties?

Interviewer: Yes, they were both released in the late sixties, that's interesting ... but going back to Southport and the early sixties, can you remember which cinemas you went to ... when you were in your early teens ...

Respondent: The cinemas in Southport all dated from the 1930s, and looking back, in retrospect they had some really glorious architectural features., but as a child they seemed very old-fashioned, that's all I really recall about them. I remember that the Palace cinema had black and white stills of famous Hollywood stars on the staircase, including Humphrey Bogart and Vivien Leigh ...

Interviewer: Were they chain cinemas, or were there flea pits as well?

Respondent: I don't remember any flea pit cinemas in Southport, no, they were chain cinemas, an ABC and an Odeon, I think. Later, when I was at Uni in London, I went to independent cinemas, they gave you more street-cred!

Interviewer : Yes, that sounds about right ... so the Odeon and ABC in Southport, can you remember anything more about what it was like going there, were people well-behaved, or ...

Respondent: Yes, I think so, I mean they talked during the Pearl and Dean adverts, but then quietened down for the main feature, and people smoked, obviously, there were ash trays on the backs of seats ... and of courses, we sat on the back seats when we went on dates. As a young teenager it was always difficult to get in to an A certificate films, so what we did, there was a group of us girls who were all about 14, you were supposed to be accompanied by an adult, and so if we saw a group of slightly older boys going in on their own, without girlfriends, we'd give them out ticket money and they'd pay for us. Then of course, they'd want paying back "in kind" on the back row ... not what the British Board of Film Censors had in mind, I don't think ...

Interviewer: No, absolutely not ... so you were about 14 ...

Respondent: Yes, we were 14, and the boys, I suppose were 16 or 17 ... it didn't really seem like a big deal at the time, but I suppose now people would ee it differently ...

Interviewer: So, can you remember seeing any particular films, from the early 60s, does anything stand out at all ...

Respondent: Oh, well, I loved James Bond, the 60s Bond films were the best in the series, Sean Connery was just so gorgeous. I remember going to see Dr. No, From Russia With Love and Goldfinger several times, in order to thoroughly absorb the atmosphere of sophistication and glamour ... I remember the customised Aston Martin in Goldfinger making a big impression! Also, the moment when Ursula Andress came out of the sea in Dr. No, and realising I'd never look like that ...

Respondent: So you liked Bond films, did you enjoy British cinema generally ...

Interviewer: Yes, I don't think I was really exposed to European films until I went to university, when I joined the university film society

Interviewer: And they showed a lot of foreign language films, nouvelle vague films?

Respondent: Yes, lots of French and Italian films, though I think I always preferred British films, really ...

Interviewer: So you enjoyed the glamour of James Bond, what about the kitchen sink films, did they particularly resonate with you, or ... was it not so interesting seeing places that looked so familiar on the big screen?

Respondent: Yes, they did, because I lived in the north of England and therefore I felt very proud that such films were made, especially when the screenplays

were written by northerners like Shelagh Delaney's A Taste of Honey ...  
they put the north on the map culturally, you know, and we were proud of  
that. It was the first time I'd seen the north of England at the cinema, but it  
was a world outside of my existence, as a middle class teenager who lived  
in a small rural village ... my life was nothing like that!

Interviewer: So you didn't identify with the stories told, they ...

Respondent: No, not at all. Funnily enough, it was the swinging London films that I  
identified with, really. There was a culture that was familiar, that I knew ...  
London was the place to be for the fashion, the music, the art, it was  
where I had wanted to be and where I escaped to from my rural village!

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