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| A drawing of a face  Description automatically generated | |
| **Interview data sheet:** Behind the Scenes Project | |
| **Ref no:** THM/258    **WAV files ref:** | |
| **Collection title:** Behind the scenes: saving and sharing Cambridge Arts Theatre’s Archive  **Interviewee’s surname:** Puttick  **Title:** Ms  **Interviewee’s forename(s):** Steve  **Gender:** Female  **Occupation:** Retired | |
| **Date(s) of recording, tracks (from-to):** 02/08/21  **Location of interview:** Cambridge Arts Theatre  **Name of interviewer:** Katherine Moar  **Type of recorder:** Zoom H4N **Recording format:** WAV  **Total no. of tracks:** 1 **Total duration (HH:MM:SS):** 00:12:07  **Mono/Stereo:** Stereo | |
| **Additional material:** | None |
| **Copyright/Clearance:** Assigned to Cambridge Arts Theatre. | |
| **Interviewer’s comments:** |  |
| **Abstract:** | Steve Puttick has been visiting Cambridge Arts Theatre for over 70 years. She first came to see a Pantomime starring Cyril Fletcher when she was 9 years old. Puttick recalls her favourite productions and her friendship with the ballet dancer Jack Skinner. |
| **Key words:** | Cambridge Arts Theatre, Cyril Fletcher, *Cinderella,* Lord Chamberlain, *Hysteria,* Antony Sher, Sigmund Freud, Salvador Dali, Jack Skinner, *The Green Table,* Cambridge Writer’s Circle, Rita Cameron, The Great Carmo, Harry Cameron, *The Hypochondriac,* Tony Robinson, *Absurd Person Singular, The Dresser, Groan Ups*, ADC, *Playboy of The Western World*, Addenbrookes |
| **File** |  |
| **00.00** | Puttick first came to Cambridge Arts Theatre around 1950, when she was 9 years old, to see a Pantomime starring Cyril Fletcher. She thinks it was probably *Cinderella*. She was a reserved child and thought all the other children shouting were very rude! She particularly remembers the Lord Chamberlain coming onto the stage with a cast on his foot and every time he entered it got bigger. She went with mother and perhaps her brother. She remembers coming to see two or three Pantomimes, before she began to feel she was too old for them. |
| **02.10** | Puttick’s favourite production she has seen at the Arts Theatre was *Hysteria* with Antony Sher as Sigmund Freud. Puttick particularly enjoyed the scenery which moved and folded in on itself. The play depicted a meeting between Sigmund Freud and Salvador Dali. |
| **03.20** | Puttick recalls seeing her friend Jack Skinner in a ballet at Cambridge Arts Theatre. The first time she knew he performed here was in 1942, which she thinks was *The Green Table*, but she was only a year old at the time so did not see it, though her brother did. She first saw Skinner in the ballet around 1950. She greatly enjoyed watching him dance and describes his dancing as “angular”. She did not enjoy watching the “floaty women in white dresses” who came on after her friend. She did ballet lessons around age 10 or 11, but she quit after a term because everyone else was better than her, and some of them were much younger than her. |
| **05.40** | Her mother was in the Cambridge Writer’s Circle for many years and wrote a great variety of things and she had a few short stories published. Puttick also writes short stories and is attempting a novel but is not sure that she will complete it. Her mother met Rita Cameron who also was in the Writer’s Circle. Cameron was the widow of circus impresario The Great Carmo [Harry Cameron]. When Steve met her, she was in her 70s and running a sweet kiosk downstairs at the Arts Theatre. Her daughters used to buy sweets there but Puttick never did, although she does not know why that was. She said Cameron was a very nice lady and very beautiful. |
| **07.30** | Puttick’s favourite seat is J27 in the Circle because it is in the back row and at the top of the steps so there is nothing in front of you. She says it’s the “best view in the house!” |
| **08.00** | Puttick remembers seeing *The Hypochondriac* with Tony Robinson playing a hypochondriac. She particularly remembers there being two good songs, one of which was called ‘Blood in My Poo’. |
| **08.50** | Puttick comes to the Arts Theatre 2 or 3 times per year. She is looking forward to seeing *Absurd Person Singular* and *The Dresser*. She is less looking forward to seeing *Groan Ups,* which she is going to see because she has been to other ‘Goes Wrong’ productions. She has missed being able to come to the Theatre during the COVID-19 Pandemic. She also goes to the ADC and saw *Playboy of The Western World* which was very good. |
| **10.13** | Her love of theatre comes from knowing Jack Skinner when she was very young. She got to know him because he was a night porter at Addenbrookes hospital with her father, because they were both excused from war work. They made bags in the attic to earn some money. She always knew Jack Skinner as a ballet dancer and she knew his wife who was also a ballet dancer. She says they were both lovely people. Ballet came first for her in terms of theatre experience, and then other styles followed. Her favourite types of play to watch are comedy and drama. She is not very keen on dance now because a lot of it is modern. She also does not like historical plays done in modern costumes because it annoys her as she does not feel they are doing it “properly”. |
| **ENDS.** |  |