



**21 September 2013**

**Interview with:**

**Carol Doey and Tony Mc Gurk, Community Drama Practitioners,**

**Venue: The Hub, Cookstown, County Tyrone**

**The Memory Project, Smashing Times Theatre Company Ltd**

File no: 010159

TC Start: 02:50:20:16

Q: So Carol and Tony how are you?

**CAROL:** We're grand.

Q: You did this workshop today? Carol how was that?

**CAROL:** (laugh) Exhausting! I don't think I was ever in a workshop like it in my life ever that...that moved everybody y'know till, I suppose opening up, [02:50:50:07] I was gonna say tears but it was all opening up, it was unbelievable and I, I knew everybody in the group which was even more strange because things was happening that I thought oh my God but I knew it was good for whatever reason they were crying and, it was unbelievable. I'm exhausted actually [02:50:59:09], knackered!

Q: Good! (all laugh) you'll enjoy your sleep tonight?

**CAROL:** Aye not need a'rockin! [20:51:06:22]

Q: So you are a Catholic and a Protestant and you are married?

**CAROL:** No (points) Catholic and (points to herself) and Protestant, you went round the wrong road there ha! [02:51:17:18]

Q: And did you ever think when you were growing up that you would marry a catholic?

**CAROL:** [02:51:23:07] Not a mission....there wasn't a chance in hell that I'd be marrying a Catholic, not growing up in the family that I grew up in, not that..we weren't a very bitter family but we were Church of Ireland - staunch Church of Ireland, my father's an Orangeman [02:51:37:11] and Black Chapter so Catholic didn't come into it. He never told us not to marry a Catholic, or he never told us to keep away from them but it was about. It was just there was an aura everywhere. Like, we lived in a, in a small town, 94% Catholic so we were the 6% Protestants, my Mum and Dad still live in that wee town.[02:52:03:07] But it was just about, and I mean I knew at a tiny tiny age that we were different than the most of the people in our town. I remember an old Barber one time, and Mommy had a blind Uncle and I used to walk him up - he used to put his hand on my shoulder [02:52:19:17] up to the Blind Barber's , and we had moved house and the old man knew this and he said 'oh this is miss Dewey and you've moved down house' and I said 'yeah we've moved down' and he says 'you'll play with Brendan Quinn's children? I was only a tot at the time and I says 'we're not allowed to play with Catholics' [02:52:36:05] ....my mother nearly kilt me that night and my Uncle beat me the whole way down the road. That didn't come from my parents, so somewhere along the line I had picked this up that y'know there was Catholics across the road and we weren't allowed to pick them, or play with them. [02:52:49:13]. So.

Q: And Tony, your experience then, I mean would you have felt the same growing up in reverse if you like? That you would never have seen yourself marrying a Protestant?

**TONY:** [02:53:02:02]Not exactly, I wouldn't have been, my mind wasn't closed to marrying any particular faith or whatever but we knew that we weren't exactly popular with some of the Protestant people, that our type was different, and we move in different circles and.....it was only probably later in life that I got to meet more and more Protestant people, cos the tension had gone out, slowly got of the thing...as you got older as well. [02:53:27:08] I worked in a 95% Protestant factory at one stage and I just enjoyed the...as if you moved to a new country where there's all these new people (laughter in B/G) they were same colour but they were different people. And it was like you get bored of your own type and you got this new people and you saw the Queen's picture in the...in the workshop wall [02:53:48:20] and you said ah curious - might as well have been a Muslim or a Jewish y'know God or demigod on the wall but it...there was wee pockets of that there in the factory because it was 95% of the one (**Carol** off camera) must get one and hang it up in our house! (**Tony**) and eh...I never felt any y'know antipathy towards the thing, I just was, sympathy and sometimes y'know incredulous like my God ! [02:54:16:04] y'know not at what they believed or what they did... but I just thought sometimes a bit petty or....sometimes it was a bit over the top sometimes y'know (**Carol** off camera) us? (pull back to 2S and laughter) I just realized he was talking about us (**Tony**) I realize now that was probably an expression of their, the feeling of probably... isolation in a way or...like the barriers up towards the rest of the

world who might have thought y'know, it was like....someone on their back that they had to protest at all times to keep their, their place where it was y'know [02:54:47:01]

Q: So this must have come from your upbringing, your family?

**TONY:** [02:54:50:11] Yeah you didn't, as Carol said, you didn't...you heard it bit by bit , slowly incrementally you got the feeling that...you knew you moved in different circles [02:55:00:10] you didn't go to the same church, you didn't go to the same school, and you didn't play the same sports...as you get to work and go out among the working population, you began to sort of...melt into the wider population instead of just being in your own circles y'know. [02:55:18:15]

Q: So is it fair to say that the divisions are more obvious when you are growing up, when you are younger and yet when you get older there's a bit more migration or cross migration if you like? Carol?

**CAROL:** [02:55:29:22] Yeah ....um....probably, I just, I mean we married late in life, over 40 and that was the instigation of my first play, I wrote about people over 40 meeting, of different religions and still afraid to tell their parents, cos that was the truth [02:55:48:21] y'know I said oh Jesus how am I going to say catholic, he's a catholic or ...y'know so that was still....but when you said there, I can't... (to **Tony**) you said about us? what did you say about 'us' um....that we were just shouting or something to keep ourselves whatever...I remember it's true cos there was a, a strike years ago like a UDA strike I think they called it and....we turned off Ballylumford.[02:56:10:19] I didn't know that Protestants turned it off, I just knew that electric went out, but I felt very powerful because ....(winks) [02:56:17:06]

Q: You'll have to explain that to me what does that mean?

**TONY:** Power station. **CAROL:** Ballylumford is a big power station [02:56:19:04] that all the electric in Northern Ireland sorry but...I remember when y'know the ...whispers you hear - Ballylumford's been turned off and there was a sense of excitement and I remember coming down over the back fields and Mommy had a wee stove going with mushrooms in it and I thought Jesus we turned that off y'know...so we did ..we were non politically minded in our house, and we were brought up that way, but there was a sense that - it was us that turned it off not them (laugh) y'know it will be us that turns it on again, y'know and it's ridiculous now [02:56:46:17] cos there's no, not a sectarian bone in my body, but then...y'know I turned the lights off ...more power to you!! [02:56:54:11]

Q: What was the town you grew up in?

**CAROL:** [02:56:55:14] Stewartstown.

Q: OK, one of the things that strikes me as well, is that you are constantly reminded of those divisions if you like because of all the iconography, you know the flags and all that sort of stuff I notice you throw your eyes to heaven there I mean - is that an irritation at this stage?

**TONY:** [02:57:16:07] Yes big irritation, I just ignore to some degree but sometimes I just come face to face with it or you know have a fresh look at it and you say,...y'know when you see something every day and you pass no remarks, but then some day you're contemplating – maybe in a different place and a different time, different type of situation and you see these things and you say....they're still here like...why? Is it to reinforce something that we already know? We don't have to be reminded - we know all these things it's not...[02:57:44:06] ...it's perpetuating something that doesn't need perpetuating to me but (shrugs) .

**CAROL:** [02:57:48:22] When Tony moved in to our house I lived in a predominantly Protestant estate.....would it be 100%? Except you? (**Tony**) 99%(**Carol**) 99.9 when Tony moved in [02:57:59:13] but....I suppose the first year he moved in ..it was like....a sort of a, y'know coming up to June you thought July is nearly here y'know what'll he think of the flags flapping but they went up regardless y'know, and me and my daughter Patsy we used to feel sorry for him, we'd think oh God I wonder does he... and then we'd ask him and he says they don't annoy me, but we felt bad that he had to drive and every house, except ours, had a, had a flag up y'know[02:58:25:08] but I don't know...

Q: So just looking at the bigger picture if you like, this is part of what's called the Memory Project and so part of it is, if you like, telling the stories of the memorable things that happened and some of them were obviously atrocious, did any of those atrocities affect your lives directly or indirectly?

**CAROL:** [02:58:46:16] My sister got married on....I can't even remember the month, but I remember I was icing her wedding cake, so I was getting a life over at 8 o'clock one..say Monday morning, by a fella who worked in Dungannon and he picked me up at 8 O'Clock and he was driving a Volkswagen car and we were heading down towards Cookstown Police barracks and this noise, to me it was like somebody was tapping on the roof of the car, or the bonnet of the car - sounded like a tin noise like pat, pat, pat, pat, pat – and he says turn down the radio, it must be something on the car , and he turned the radio down but as we were still driving, or he was still driving and I was in the front seat [02:59:27:10] there was a maroon HiAce van outside the barracks with the door opened and I could clearly see a gunman sitting on his side shooting and he shot a policeman... [02:59:42:02] and by the time we realized anything had happened he pulled up the, he pulled on the handbrake of the car and I jumped out and I lay on my stomach, and he jumped out, but he had to get back in again cos he forgot to put the handbrake of the car on - it was flying on down! - so he got back in again but I remember screaming really, really loudly because .... I knew then it was gunshots, I knew there was shooting

going on cos I heard someone shouting 'get an ambulance he's dead' [03:00:08:03] but the gunshots got louder which scared the living ...I just thought my God they are coming up this way how am I going to get out of here but seemingly we learned later on that it was the police shot back and they had no silencers on or..I have no ..never wanted to enquire about it but...the first shooting sounded like tap, tap, tap, tap and the next shooting got louder so I was scared [03:00:28:00] and....everybody was that shocked on that part of the street that we were allowed to get back into our car and drive straight past....the dead man...lying in the barracks.... we never spoke, this fella, very good friend of mine, and he just stopped in Stewartstown in the square, he didn't even take me down home...I could hardly walk down the hill because I wanted to be so sick cos I remember ...I seen y'know like 4 or 5 red dots in this man's ,cos it was a pale green shirt they used to wear, surprised that I remember that – but it was pale green , and I remember [03:01:05:24] ...going down the hill and opening the door and I says' Daddy' before I spoke Daddy said there's been a Policeman injured in Cookstown and I said 'Daddy he's dead' - no he's not the news said he's injured - I said Daddy I swear he's dead - I saw him - they thought I was not wise [03:01:19:15] but I came in and I said I promise I drove past that - and I remember shaking - the wedding cake never was iced that day cos my hands couldn't steady til get it done. But that's the only thing I believe that I ever saw. But it was just...do you know this...I know it annoyed me but it was so ...unbelievable that I never thought about it again until somebody like you would say to me can you remember anything and I'll tell you the story [03:01:47:02] but apart from that it goes way out of my head cos its...

Q: That's probably the way you dealt with it?

**CAROL:** [03:01:51:22] I just...never and I never.....I'm a great story teller, I mean I'm a marvelous story teller, I exaggerate and put...but that was one thing I never ,ever, touched on. Couldn't ...not that I thought oh don't go there, I just forgot about it , just ...in my head [03:02:07:00]

Q: And Tony?

**TONY:** [03:02:11:16] Thankfully nothing directly affected me, or my family,...some of my relatives were in very.....similar circumstances to Carol but really it never impinged on my life but ...I think it was almost surreal in, in some respects - some of the things you heard about or some things you may have seen or you might have heard a bomb in the distance or heard of something or something local - the postman was shot 2 miles away and you are sort of shocked inside but [03:02:43:07] ...nothing you could do only take a deep breath and hope there was no repercussions and ..try and carry on as normal so...it was almost like another....another world existed outside your own, you sort of kept to your own protected world and hoped the other would go away eventually and, or that wouldn't impinge on your own life y'know [03:03:03:15]...but we didn't have any real ... contact with...or major contact with the Troubles ...thank goodness. only I remember me father saying to us when we were teenagers ... if any of you boys - we were mostly

boys - get involved with anything you'll not be coming, you'll not be coming through the back door - it'll be locked and you'll be staying out and that's it ...so we were warned to keep well clear of any organizations or but I don't think we were ever inclined to anyway so....we never had any real...unless you really went looking for it ..you might not have got involved y'know, I mean...or it came to you maybe - it come to some people [03:03:40:14] by accident but it never came to our house thank goodness.03:03:44:10]

Q: You must look back now on that with a certain amount of relief? And respect for your father in a way?

**TONY:** [03:03:52:11] Yeah ..I don't know why he said that but I think it was....I don't know why....maybe he had....maybe he was just afraid ...maybe that was it maybe... maybe it happened to some other family he knew or something like that there - he was just afraid so he ...just in case he warned us y'know...I don't think he believed we really would be as easy led into something like that but you never know now like - it can come to you by ...by default if it visits on your brother and then y'know and you feel bad about it then you take revenge and that's the way it happened in some families, and then the whole family became involved in one way or another or at least sympathize but thank God it never touched us at all....[03:04:30:04]so....I'm glad in a way yes he did but....

Q: And then I suppose this backdrop, this wider backdrop...you said already that the last thing on your mind, ever, was to have married someone from....you mentioned ...us and them...from them if you like but that *did* happen so how did that come about? How did you meet?

**CAROL:** [03:04:54:23] Drama ...yeah...drama group .... I was divorced and I had, I had a child ...and he was attached to his mother's apron strings (laugh off cam) (**Tony**) that's debatable actually but..(laugh) for another time..(**Carol**) no it was through drama, we met through drama absolutely ....(**Tony**) rehearsals and learning lines and (**Carol**) he was in the same piece as me and he used to say I'll come up to your house and learn my lines cos its quieter (Carol looks over to Tony) if I knowed now what I knew then...(laugh) [03:05:29:00] only joking...aye it was through drama..but we, we sorta ,... we did keep it quiet (**Tony**) we were a bit cagey for a while (**Carol**) I mean we were over 40 for goodness sake you know so I'm sure ...we're married 10 years so that's only 10 years ago so I'm sure today there's still some people who think Oh can't say that what am I going say y'know....don't know how we broke it to them... we didn't break it really cos I used to say this is Tony from drama, Mommy, Tony from drama...we're going to drama and - going to a drama weekend....that was going on for years y'know - drama weekend yeah ha..drama weekend - whose that? Tony from the drama weekend (laugh) just lied our way through it [03:06:08:13] what did you tell them I was? (**Tony**) ...in the drama group... (**Carol**) did you? ah see that ? I knew (laugh) (**Tony**) common denominator - I think that's what people do need is common denominators in their lives to, to break barriers [03:06:24:24]

Q: That's exactly it, that's the point isn't it? Here's a drama group that allows people from all denominations to get together and it doesn't really matter does it?

**TONY:** [03:06:36:24] I don't think it mattered to us as much as to what we thought that other people would think about it and as a one to one if we were the only 2 people on the island it wouldn't have mattered to us but because of the pressures around it mattered a bit that we weren't from the same background.[03:06:50:22](**Carol**) it was only my parents, like I didn't give a hoot what anybody else ...none of my family ..I didn't, it didn't bother me, it was just my parents, and do you remember the night we decided to tell them? (laugh) I swear to god, we got engaged - we didn't tell anybody you see, so we come home with this ring and we're oh fuck what are we going to do? Are you going to say or am I going to say?[03:07:05:09] so he says...Tony's very sensible, he's not like me, so right we'll pick a night and we're going to tell them so we...we were up on our computer and I'm going out now to tell my father and then I'll tell my mother and you..and I said I don't think I'll go I'll just phone them and he says well as long as you tell them. So the minute he went I phoned me sister, would you do me a big favor? (laugh) I wouldn't even tell them, I got her to tell my parents and I felt really sneaky because I knew he was gone out with his guts churning to tell them ones you know and I thought my god he's to face all that there and I didn't do anything at all, so I was really sneaky and I thought I can't face that negativity if it's going to happen, y'know or whatever [03:07:44:11] but

Q: So what was the reaction then?

**TONY:** [03:07:46:15] Mine was the y'know the Father and son - you know the conversations, not face to face but y'know huhuh and....washing the dishes and this person like (looking thoughtful) right well the day and...and all this ...and what time is it and...just before I go I want to say ...tell you this here when you're not looking at me so don't have to face to face..no eyeball please, this here (laughter) you know that sort of uncomfortable sort of ...then there was silence ....and...then ah don't know what...what your mother would think about that ...(laugh) (**Carol**) and us 40! (**Tony**) so he was more or less transporting that ...moving on to somebody else's responsibility to give an opinion on it - he wasn't too sure himself but...he was really thinking about what other people would think as well really I think but [03:08:35:02] that was the last mention of it as a problem or even a topic of discussion really.

Q: And for you? What was your mother's thoughts?

**CAROL:** [03:08:41:11] You see I think....my mother would have...my mother has a wonderful imagination, everything to mum, if she'd had heard a rumor before she was told, it would be oh there'll be killing there'll be a murder...mommy...there was no middle ground or no...there could be peace ..it would have been just absolutely....but it was my father that I was afraid of cos I thought my god I've lost his respect now and ...I was devastated and I thought ...cos I could handle mommy better but if Daddy had of

said anything negative I don't know....I think I still would have married ye (to Tony) but **(Tony)** that's very good **(Carol)** but I think, I think, I think...I don't know, it would hurt me more if Daddy had of said oh that can't be happening but ....I got a better reception ...y'know I thought they would say oh she's a lovely girl so we were all mixed up there so I ...my Dad said [03:09:32:10]...because...but I ...done a lot of things in the house and...and....I just, I'm a, I'm a people person so my father had thought God, there's, I'm doing things with people, she's very...but Daddy would never say she was good but I knew he enjoyed what I was doing so...probably this was what softened the blow, the things that I was doing in the community , he said ...well she's old enough now to know her own mind and as long as he looks after the child and he's good to her that's it...and when they phoned me I thought oh thanks be to god I don't have to...hah...y'know ..didn't fear meeting them the next time round y'know... mommy probably took a dose of shaking and y'know threw a couple of valium into her and all that craic there but...she probably did y'know..and whatever..but... [03:10:16:12]

Q. But no mention of the fact that he's a 'bloody Catholic'?

**CAROL:** [03:10:19:22] No, never said ....and we had to, we had to actually...wind our wedding around that too didn't we?**(Tony)** yeah..you have to be sort of diplomatic and sort of sensitive to the peoples y'know. **(Carol)** we've a vicar in our church who, who knew we were getting married and he must have made 45 phone calls to me, he says 'Carol I'll open any church or any chapel, in Ireland, I've the keys, I'm able to get the keys of any church..to make it that there's a priest and a church of Ireland minister there...and I said no...I don't want that, Tony says to me I don't want a priest, y'know at our wedding and I said would you mind if there's a church of Ireland ..I don't care he says church of Ireland ok but I'm not a practicing catholic so I don't want a priest [03:11:05:05] so I ...this man ...but I think it was...y'know that transition period between the blowing up and then everybody wants to be huggy kisseey and trees and roots and all that craic there, so he wanted us to have this ...but it was like a feather in their cap...if we... marry these two and there's a priest and a minister we'll tell the pope look what we've done...y'know and that made me really cross I think [03:11:27:04]

Q : It's more about them than about you?

**Carol:** And I thought **(Tony)** hmmm **(Carol)** remember the night we were drying dishes and it was him again - let me talk to him...and I couldn't ..y'know...he actually said to me 'is it about your mother and father? Cos if it is I'll speak to them'...I was infuriated that they really wanted us to have a mixed wedding when we didn't ....[03:11:47:04] and I...if Tony had of said to me that I want the priest to marry us, the priest would have married us - that wouldn't have bothered me , not in the slightest ....but...it would have been in a cave ...nobody would have knew about it but....(laugh)...(looks to Tony) no I would have... but we slipped away one morning at 7 o'clock, nobody knew, we didn't tell anybody...went down the road...went to what do you call it? The city hall, lifted up our Banns, is it the marriage banns you call them? ...we drove across ...we couldn't find the

church cos there was that much barbed wire in it ...the peace wall, beside the peace wall...[03:12:20:15] and ...what do you call the road? field...something field.... we hadn't even witnesses and the minister was there Paul Toomey and Paul said have you no witnesses? And we said no, did we need any? So we nipped into the school next door and got 2 people out, they were shaking - we just couldn't wait, we thought this is brilliant look 15 mins here and back down the road and we're married - no big fuss ...we done that..and then we had our reception in Lusty Beg Island ...we borrowed videos,....photographers, priests, ministers,.....and fancy clothes because we thought we'd strip them down to neutrality and they'll be absolutely...[03:13:02:12] ...we organized the wedding. Then...y'know we sent them an invitation and we said 'you're going across in a boat, if there are any problems throw them into the water or don't come across y'know?...em..(Tony) we were setting the place mats and the place ...the place on the table on the morning of the wedding..we ...were control freaks, not in a bad way - we enjoyed that - we didn't want it to be..we wanted it to be comfortable for everybody, so we actually organized the wedding like hands on like wedding planners ourselves [03:13:28:11] and we were there a day before if not 2 days before on the island and then people came to us - in a way it being on an island meant that everybody came and were brought into neutral space in a way y'know cos nobody...they were all out of their local environment anyway so that was good in a way...I think that was part of the idea too?[03:13:43:17]

Q: And had the future in-laws met each other?

**CAROL:** [03:13:45:08] No. (Tony) no (Carol) and they still didn't speak on that night..they were still in two...it wasn't that they didn't speak - they were there and they were there and the dance floor was between them so ...[03:13:57:07]

Q: So go on...what went on..?

**CAROL:** [03:13:59:18] Well we just, we just ignored them didn't we? (Tony) it was just like a (Carol) I don't even think I went to their tables, I just thought ....I was only then...Tony and I ...whenever the starters came out we ate at a table then for the main course we moved to another table - there was 280 guests or something, there wasn't one aunt or one uncle [03:14:17:01]

Q: Just friends?

**CAROL:** [03:14:18:11] Totally friends - two immediate families and the rest were all friends...so ....no we didn't ...and we thought ...and everybody said that our wedding was one of the most casual, pleasant, unbelievably brilliant days ever - we done everything like home...you know like soup and sandwiches for lunch at our wedding and their meal wasn't until 6 o'clock ...we had ....a 28 piece orchestra playing all day, craic , we'd a ...what do you call it..a bagpiper - he piped them onto the island...he got drunk and he hadn't the air to fill the bag at the end of the night I swear to god in heaven weeee - he

was there too long the poor critter and it was the first lie I told me husband, he cost £150, I told him £75 he said oh get him he'll be lovely but it was £150 and only he played about 20 mins and my brother got him drunk and he hadn't the air to put into the bagpipes but anyway...[03:15:07:11] we just...our day was just full of music and dance and fun and at 11 o'clock at night it was a firework display - 12 min one ...so we'd a brilliant day - no they never connected - there was no connection [03:15:23:13]

Q: And has there has been since though?

**CAROL:** [03:15:26:19] ....well when Tony's Dad is in hospital, in a residential care home at the minute and ah when he was in hospital my mom and Dad went to see him ...uhuh....[03:15:38:12]

Q: And that was the first time that they had met was it?

**TONY:** [03:15:41:05] I'm not sure....

Q: I'm just ...what I'm getting at is what sort of relationship did they have?

**CAROL:** [03:15:48:19] None. **(Tony)** None really not since - they know of each other and know each other.

Q: And brothers and sisters?

**CAROL:** [03:15:53:09] Our brothers and sisters? {Yeah} **(Tony)** Ah well they've all met each other occasionally but y'know...

Q: So it's a generational thing then?

**CAROL:** [03:16:00:15] Yeah. **(Tony)** It is aye - they are safe in their own space and so....

Q: So everyone's kind of comfortable dancing around that a little bit?  
Yeah aye yeah.

END FILE

File 010160

Start TC: 03:16:14:10

Q: I want to ask you a question, you got married at 40 but had you been 20 years of age do you think it would have been much harder for you? I suspect it would have...

**CAROL:** [03:16:18:21] We would had to go England or something wouldn't we? **(Tony)**. If we were 20 now it wouldn't have been as hard I don't think.

Q: Would it?

**TONY:** Now. **(Carol)** Now? **(Tony)** To me it wouldn't **(Carol)** you mean if it was now?

Q: Now yeah...

**CAROL:** [03:16:26:19] Not a chance ...my child's 22 - Patsy's 22 not a mission **(Tony)** not a problem

Q: Things have changes radically then?

**TONY:** [03:16:32:20] Massively. **(Carol)** Not for everybody no not for everybody. **(Tony)** No not for everybody. **(Carol)** There are still that..y'know ..well in all walks, there is still an element of ...that old fashioness...even young people...my daughters age would be - not a mission - not going there y'know so no ...but I mean Patsy's had a brilliant growing up with us because we sent her to an integrated school - that was unheard of in the protestant community actually - we were nearly one of the first to send - well I was the first in (May berg) Park ever...to send my child down to the integrated cos I wanted her to go to go integrated [03:17:05:05] for me that was absolutely amazing that I lived in a 100% protestant place and she'd come home and say to me Mum, would you mind if I played Camogie? I said not at all just don't bring the bat home (laugh) you know because we played hockey - y'know protestant schools played hockey so...[03:17:20:19] and she brought people home that would come... girls that played GAA ...y'know and come to my door - I used to be saying its lovely that she's meeting all these people y'know cos we, I didn't meet anyone till I went to work - Catholics - I never went, I wasn't across the border...I think .....my god I must have been well over 20 and ..we're going up to the border now..oh my god... I thought I would be shot cos I was a protestant - that's the way you thought - once you crossed that border you'd be pulled into a field or something [03:17:47:09] I was y'know...I remember one of...my very best friend Rosie...I taught her the Sash and she taught me the Hail MARY in case it became a big civil war y'know and you were stopped some night say Hail Mary full of Grace ....you know I could sing it and she could learn the Sash - I says if ever there was trouble back out in a car get out all the protestants and we'd all get out together and bluff them y'know or whatever or get out all the Catholics y'know - we'd do that - so we 'd all wee plans made for in case we were ever ambushed (laugh) [03:18:16:02].

Q: And what about your eh....upbringing Tony would you have had a plan B?

**TONY:** [03:18:23:04] I don't know - I always felt that if I was quite amicable with people that I met and I just hoped that I knew enough people, wide enough range of people that knew me well and having worked in places in Dungannon and Cookstown, being in contact with a lot of people, that I didn't really think I had to. **(Carol)** That they would go for you? [03:18:45:16] **(Tony)** Well I would have been afraid of ...being in some circumstances overwhelmingly maybe...one side that I would be in danger but I would never put myself in those positions where I'd have been.....y'know overtly political - like I

wouldn't have went to marches or went to any meetings or anything like that - I would never been there...[03:19:05:01]

Q: When you were younger, when you were growing up, you did say you were aware of us and them?

**Tony:** Oh aye...

Q ...and so did you have any kind of...for example did you cross the border?

**TONY:** [03:19:16:20] Oh aye as soon as I could drive 19,.....I was in rock concerts down in Dublin and Shamrock Park and Slane and everywhere.

Q: And what were your impressions of the south?

**TONY:** [03:19:29:20] Then?...impressions were.....it was exciting, it was different - different signs and different accents and stuff and but I wasn't quite at one with it , I mean it wasn't ...I didn't feel like it was my home ...my ...y'know like the Ireland...the old Ireland that people always talked about I didn't feel it was quite me either y'know – that I was still different but ...but I felt safe there and it was exciting and ...y'know ....it didn't seem like home but it seemed like another place - a friendly place - different culture[03:20:06:12]

Q. And you had impressions that it was a hostile place?

**CAROL:** [03:20:08:16] Oh...just people down there...oh don't open your mouth and don't say your name y'know ..in case they'd found out ...I'd never...I can tell you now - I know - a lot of protestants who have still not been across the border - in my age group and would NOT go across the border ...I know, that's the truth [03:20:27:03]

Q: So now we're in this...well into the peace process and what are your impressions for the future? Obviously things have changed you've said for the 20 year old now or even for the 40 year old now there are less issues ...the issues are more immediate? Family based issues but the society has become much more integrated?

**CAROL:** [03:20:52:08] Well...{so is that going to...get better you think?} [03:20:55:23] we've a different ....in Cookstown at the moment , we have 2,000 ethnic minorities so that's the difference for us ....20 years ago it was only the Pakistani man coming round selling clothes that's the only person - he'd been a big..oh my goodness look, look, look, - and the children would run away - now we've 2,000 Portuguese/African/Lithuanian /Czechoslovakian - people who all use the Hub [03:21:27:06] that are in Cookstown now which is ....now people .....are thinking - she's going with a Portuguese...he's going with a Lithuanian....y'know so it's all that kind of a craic so....we've sort of slid back on

the Catholic/Protestant thing so its now ooohh...y'know...so I'm not sure [03:21:50:03] **(Tony)** it's strange...just depends on what.... y'know ...what exactly what community - exact community group you come from - you know there's communities within communities - there's like different shades of color in every community, but there's more and more in the middle white - y'know I always think of the Green and the orange and the white in-between – it's a play I think I read once or something - and there's more white people in between who are different shades of pale green or pale Orange or ..you know there's more of that...but still on the outside there's maybe 25% of people I'd imagine [03:22:21:06] really that hold on to their...

**(Carol)** I love the 12th of July, the 12<sup>th</sup> of July ...I don't know if you like it or not but I love the 12th of July and I'm not sectarian in any way - I ...because people ...some people think oh the 12th - starts to all the trouble but for me growing up the 12th of July was 5 kids - all new outfits - plastic sandals, 10p each or 2 shillings back then - our hair all combed - the excitement was like Christmas eve night - it was so exciting and all slid into the back of a Zephyr car and mommy drove us up to wherever the parade was that day and we couldn't wait to see Daddy coming past [03:23:02:08] walking and all the bands - you get a punnet of strawberries and mommy brought a loaf of bread and butter and she brought chips from a van and we all got a lot of chips and a sandwich - it was just so exciting - and even yet to me and I grew up with the 12th of July and I absolutely, I loved to hear the ..when you hear the bands you just want to ...y'know you just love to tap your feet and it brings me back to those happy memories when I didn't know anything about bombing or anything about shooting or Catholics or Protestants - it was my day out and our family day out and Daddy got a bus and we waved him off in this big bus and we all slid up the road and it was just so exciting - a blanket and an old shook we were sitting in mommy would have lined out the stuff and millions, we thought, millions of people walked past us and it was just - we went home that night exhausted but thrilled that it was our day [03:23:51:09] but there was no...it was a ....to me it was a happy family day and then society caused me to stop talking about how I used to love the 12th - no I ...people say to me oh that should be banned - if it was banned it would break my heart [03:24:09:13] if they banned the 12th

Q: But the Catholic community don't have a similar day out?

**TONY:** No, no so there's.... we don't have ...

Q: It's wonderful to hear, it's a great reflection - an innocence almost and there's no kind of political dimension –

**CAROL:** [03:24:33:02] Never came into it

Q : - or sectarian dimension to it, it was just a holiday , a great holiday?

**CAROL:** With red white and blue clothes - honestly - you know everybody, every child [03:24:41:21] had like a red skirt or shorts, a white and a blue - everything was red white

and blue - it was just part of ...it wasn't ..like y'know putting it on now go and show your catholic neighbours what you wear - it was nothing to do with that - and bear in mind that we lived in Stewartstown in the middle of 96% catholic area so you know we still thought it was ok - that was our day out and – y'know it was ok with them they allowed us to go - they were happy for us to go that's in our heads what we thought y'know [03:25:09:02] so I'd be shocked now when people say the 12th creates trouble so it's only elements within communities that create trouble on our 12th.[03:25:18:06]

Q: Is that actually a fair thing to say that it is only elements, a very small minority that grab the headlines.

**CAROL:** [03:25:26:01] Without a shadow of a doubt...(Tony) I think the strong...leaders are - the community influences - the strong people in communities who....don't let go of the leash on their communities ...they don't ...you know they've still got this hold over them..y'know like a dogma and like a....its forbidden...once you cross that line you're not one of us so you have to keep in and you are encouraged to toe the line ...so, I think that's...I don't know whether its conscious or unconscious but there seems to be..and there's also a very strong organizational part of that – it's well organized so it doesn't break down [03:26:03:03] it's so...it's so compact and steadfast that it won't just melt slowly – it's very carefully orchestrated almost, that it won't ever go away ...or even blend into something more widely acceptable you know what I mean? [03:26:19:11]

Q: Do you think that's going to change ever? Any time soon?

**CAROL:** [03:26:22:22] No. (Tony) No, well the institutions are there in a way...y'know even looking at both sides of the community - if I was a typical nationalist I would only play Gaelic or hurling, I would only go to chapel mass ...I would only....(Carol) vote Sinn Fein (Tony) vote Sinn Fein etc, etc and if it was only...if I was only...if I was a protestant or a Unionist tradition I would only do the opposite - I would be in a band or in an Orange Lodge - so you've two separate paths and once you go on one of those paths that's you for life basically [03:26:59:18] not totally but there is a fair wee division but.....(Carol) It wouldn't be political why you started voting for someone else it would be personal (laugh).

**TONY:** Aye it would be personal aye yeah [03:27:12:07]

Q: And in a way society has bigger things to worry about at the moment in terms of unemployment and ....(Tony) but I have too

Q: Than traditions...

**TONY:** [03:27:21:18] And I would look on the working class protestant community as very underprivileged ...and a lot of them have a closed mind...I feel, I feel sympathy towards them rather than disrespect or, or ...I would have thought that, y'know, they

could've done with....a bit more open mindedness from their community leaders or something y'know..you don't have to lose...lose your way to see other people's opinions like [03:27:47:16] **(Carol)** You ever remember when the EEC funding come in? That was like...that was like the devils money in protestant terms cos I remember saying to Daddy 'everybody's getting their shop fronts done up Dad.' And He owned a garage and he says 'I don't know where to get the money' I says, let me make a phone call and I phoned a particular ....**(Tony)** politician? ...**(Carol)** ... I'm not going to say what office it was that I phoned one of the members but I phoned and I said ' do you know anything about the EEC money? We don't deal with THAT money, that's outside money! [03:28:17:23] ...and put the...and that's what happened, sadly, an awful lot of protestants - even Orange halls wasn't done up because they refused the money, and if they had taken the money back when the EEC money was good, every Orange hall would be ...nice wooden sprung floors in it - they'd be running sociable things out in rural areas, everything - but they turned the money down and now they're crying - clutching for a bit of funding y'know and I am ....a protestant so I was livid at that time because all the Catholics - well why wouldn't they when the money was coming in? if I was a catholic I would have put a new roof on me house but...when money was coming in - the protestants - no - because they were ignorant [03:28:58:03] they didn't know what EEC meant or what it..y'know ...they just hadn't a clue ... to them EEC was like IRA ....so, y'know, we're not touching that money - its filthy money!.... give it to the protestants now and EEC money and...[03:29:15:08] we'll go the Maldives!

Q: I'll just hold you for one second there.... I just wanted to talk to you about..you mentioned earlier that when you were growing up there was 93% catholic? And the protecting of the culture..you said something about you had to protect your culture?

**CAROL:** [03:29:32:21] Did I say that? **(Tony)** I might have said that...

Q: I think you did Carol, you were talking about protecting your culture - you were kind of defending yourself

**CAROL:** [03:29:40:16] Oh aye the Ballylumford?

Q: Yeah..I just want to...maybe if you talk a little about ....the right to express your culture now....do you feel that...and the whole flag protest and all that whole ..... situation that is happening in NI what do you think about that Carol?

**CAROL:** [03:30:01:20] I still believe that you should have a right to express....your beliefs ...look a flag to me is a piece of material - no matter what color it is...I just don't like...our, our flags hang out ...look this is the way I grew up and this is the way I stand, and, and thanks be to god my father brought me up this way - my father put his union jack out and Union Jack only - out on the 11th night and he brought it in at 5 to 12 ...the next night and that was...that was, that was the old fashion...that was the respectable,

good Christian way of celebrating the 12th of July - you put your flag out on the 11th night and bring it in at midnight on the next night and that was lovely [03:30:49:09] and we never...in all of that area in Stewartstown ..my father...our family was very well respected ...and we never had any trouble - my father still hung out his Union Jack because that was his culture and it never was taken down...it never was burnt ...and I mean we had bombs and deaths and shootings in our home town and y'know a lot of horrific stuff happened but our Union Jack never was taken down...[03:31:14:18] so I think people respected that it was put out and taken back in again the next day and i think that's lovely and I still love my Dad for putting out his flag that night and bring it...I just think that's - look at Dad he's got it back in again and all and that's lovely - that's the way it should be - but now I see flags hanging out to infuriate other people and they hang out till they become dish cloths y'know to the following year plus the fact not just...y'know everything's ...it's a whole vicious circle.....[03:31:43:06] ...the collecting of money for new flags...they would never need money for new flags if they took them in on the 12th night , washed and ironed them - put them into the bottom drawer, and brought them out the next year....but up and down Cookstown street we have...and like I mean ..don't get...we've beautiful....arches and they do some lovely displays on the 12th of July and stuff like that but the flag issue is .....they don't hang them out for the reason they should hang them out - as a celebration day - they hang them out and say look what we can do....[03:32:11:19] ...y'know like I did when we turned Ballylumford - the lights out - y'know - look at that there - we'll hang them out - you'll not take our flags down....you know that's just .... you can be a really good decent protestant ...and hang out your flag...and love Catholics at the same time - there's nothing wrong with it...y'know..I never hang out a ...I never hung out a flag number one cos I've a awful lot of catholic friends who visited me and out of respect I thought well if just one of them was hurt walking under that flag, well I'm not hanging it out....[03:32:43:15]

Q: And do you think that your love for each other has actually ...has made you more...tolerant of the other side?

**CAROL:** [03:32:50:12] Oh for sure ...for sure **(Tony)** Although Carol you had a quite a lot of friends, Catholics, before you met me and I think you were ahead of me in the game in some ways but... I'd be more exposed to more to Carol's culture and her background, not her personally but her people she knows and meeting people ...I learned to respect that their ...their celebrations are a cultural thing and...a celebration and not a..not antagonizing as it would have been years ago to me maybe....y'know, I would have thought of coat trailing and that every band was an army without an arsenal – it's an army...they are playing the flutes today but tomorrow they could be carrying guns....[03:33:28:00] that's the way the Catholics saw it - these are all armies - every parish had its own army and then one day, if necessary, they will ditch their flutes and be...and I'm sure that's the way it was intended originally but it's just been a tradition now – it's all about music and marching but originally it was like a small...like scout troop - so military...so...[03:33:47:14]**(Carol)** I never thought you saw our bands as being

(Tony) when I was younger I did...(Carol) oh...(Tony) well you know...(Carol) that's a good 'un (Tony) if you wanted an army what you do is all the Orange lodges and all the bands and you have an army ...within 24hrs you would have an army as long as you had the guns...

Q: That harps back to ancient times when the band led the soldiers to battle?

**TONY:** Ancient times...300 yrs ago .....that's what I saw it as ...that's just me maybe being a bit....but now I don't see it like that - I just see it (Carol) and tell them why not... [03:34:11:18] (Tony) Patsy plays in a band in Magherafelt ... and my brother visited one night and she says to me don't let him see me in uniform (laugh) hide - close the door (Carol) that was her respecting Tony's brother - don't let him see me in a uniform - it wasn't because I wouldn't..it just was y'know .....just in case it might annoy him that I'm in a band uniform y'know .....(Tony) or he might think less of her [03:34:33:19]

Q: And should it? Should it annoy him?

**CAROL:** No it shouldn't (Tony) it shouldn't but...[03:34:37:12] (Carol) because ...because we're living up here and we know that it just takes that (clicks fingers) to trigger off somebody's pain or hurt from the past - y'know if we keep it as neutral as we can and y'know ....like Patsy...patsy loves the feeling of belonging to ...she's an only child - she loves the family thing of a group and teamwork she never had it in our house cos we always kilt one another but now she has this big group of family and I say why do you like it in the band? ..she did say to me - I want to join this band mum do you mind if I carry the flag? I said I'd prefer if you played the flute but if you want to carry the flag that's entirely up to you and I'll give you my blessing [03:35:12:15] so she says no ...there's something nice about this so, absolutely, I mean Tony leaves her to the bus to get a lift in - to us it's just ...something she loves doing , she belongs to this team of people and they're all good to her and y'know..... we don't see it as a...[03:35:26:08]

Q: And are there many people, obviously there are many who are intolerant , but are there many people like yourselves who are tolerant or who just keep themselves to themselves and don't express their distaste, if you like, for the divisions?

**TONY:** [03:35:41:06] Well there's 40% of people who don't vote for a start so whether inactive politically or just don't approve of the system or the history being kept going on...I don't know why that is but a lot of those people are disengaged from.... y'know...being able to do anything about it...or y'know so[03:36:02:19]

Q: So you could argue that either they are indifferent or they're fed up with it or they have very strong views but they don't want to air them because of the repercussions ...its very complex?

**TONY:** [03:36:14:01] Its very complex (**Carol**) it's a combination of all three yeah ...absolutely (**Tony**) I'd say there were a lot of people confused as well...they don't where to...(**Carol**) yeah people is afraid - y'know we have the two main parties Sinn Fein and DUP no...it's not a secret like y'know....so if you're a protestant and you're afraid that ...that you've been told ...by strong leaders or whatever - if you don't vote for us they're going to get in and the country's going to go to rack and ruin so you vote for them...[03:36:45:18] no matter....like I mean, growing up in our house - Number one - Daddy...I'm sure he ...he never said who he voted for but we thought it was DUP so we all just grouped DUP.. when you come 18 ...DUP...DUP ...because I didn't know what DUP stood for, I didn't know who was in the DUP, that I had to put the X for - not a notion in my head and I had no political interest then and I have far less now [03:37:10:06] because I don't think ..the politicians are the people that will make this country good in the future...I think it will be the people themselves....[03:37:21:07]

Q: And to that end do you think there will be a United Ireland and if there was how would you feel about it?

**CAROL:** I wouldn't want a united Ireland, definitely wouldn't want a united Ireland because ....I said that cross did I? Did I say that like with a sorta guns blazing? no? ...well number 1, I was born in Northern Ireland so I'm politically British and culturally Irish so to amalgamate....it would be horrific for somebody born in the 6 counties that's our world and then the next thing no its no more ...no you're all belonging to the one thing...it would scare me I think [03:37:56:17]

Q: So you still have that fear of the border? (Laughter)

**CAROL:** No its gone now ...no I just ..I don't know I think...I think it's nice - the 6 of us....y'know I think we're all...don't forget we've Donegal whose y'know....that's...so I'm not saying we're all, the 6 counties are all protestant I just like the North of Ireland and I think years ago if they had of let us...you know Home rule.... back then ..it would have been much better - I love down South cos when we go down south, once we cross, what used to be the border, we just love...we just think we're ...in the Maldives ....[03:38:30:13]...y'know, and that's... if we're going for the weekend straight to Letterkenny, Sligo, Donegal, Dublin...we love it - it's like our holidays but I still like my 6 counties I feel - what about you? [03:38:42:01] If I can give him word in here ...hang on.... (**Tony**) No .... I think...(**Carol**) be careful now!...(laugh) we're married 10 years, we might not see 11....only joking...(**Tony**)....no I don't think I want it either - I don't think very deep in their hearts that most Nationalists believe or really want it ...because we are, been...we've been apart so long we're not the same y'know and I think similar to what Carol said , we're either British living in Ireland or else Irish living in Britain whatever the way you want to look at it [03:39:13:05] or a combination.... in a small way as far as I like HP sauce watch BBC my favorite channel and I listen to Radio 4 plus local stations and sometimes RTE 2 but you know what I mean, ...generally I wouldn't watch

TG4 or anything like that there, but culturally I'd be Irish as far as poetry and plays and ...but only with a small I and mild color of green y'know what I mean but .... but I think ...I think you can push the NI thing too far as well like .....we sort of want to be a separate entity but I think we're all similar in Britain, Ireland, NI....I think we're too close to be ...to be that much different [03:39:54:13]

Q: And it probably sounds to me that it would matter less as the generations go on.

**TONY:** I think so (**Carol**) praise be to god....I hope it comes soon.

Q: But you still want to have your identity? But it doesn't matter what that identity is....it's about harmony isn't it really?

**CAROL:** [03:40:13:10) Oh for sure ....but I don't mind... I never was afraid of even saying to Catholics I love the 12th and I'll explain to them why I like the 12th y'know and ....then you allow them to tell you why they hate it y'know....and...I've...my longest bestest dearest friend Rosie is a Catholic - I stood for her child - and that was a big thing too - Protestant standing for a Catholic child [03:40:36:06]

Q: What do you mean 'stand for her'?

**CAROL:** Christening...

Q: Oh yeah as a Godmother?

**CAROL:** We had a - they had to ask the priest was it ok for me to come along y'know and.....

Q: What did he say?

**CAROL:** Well there was 3 of us then you see so I'm not sure if I ever did stand for her - I think he scored my name out whenever I looked back at him....[03:40:51:02] (laugh) there was 3 of us ...and that was a big thing and ... y'know, I know....Rosie says- I really want you to stand for ...but I knew there was a 'but' in it and she was horrified having to ask me - I think she wanted me to say 'sure it's all right let them 2 do it - but I wanted to stand for her first child y'know cos I was there when she was born and I wanted to be part of it as well but guess what you're standing for your child....but then I saw 3 of us and thought uhuh....[03:41:19:20]

Q: So it sounds to me that here's a community that has a bit of a psychological blockage and that is this preoccupation with each other? So if that could be released in some way and this is getting back to the theatre and the drama and some of your work as well, you facilitate as well I gather - so is that what you are hoping to achieve on some level? [03:41:46:23] (**Carol**) ...without a doubt ...I say this

Q: Is that what is driving you?

**CAROL:** This is not boasting but I have actually...we have moved mountains in Cookstown...through my art work and my writing ...I wrote the story about Tony and I - afraid to tell our parents and I wrote it in a very humorous way...we sold out 34 times in the North and I had letters from mixed marriages ...people stopped me and said 'Carol you have no idea how near the knuckle that was' - I cried when I went home and I had letters from, Carol, honest to god that just made it...I made it so funny....that my father laughed till the tears were running onto his tie...[03:42:35:17] he cried...and I can tell you now that ....on one of...the night that my father was there - 3 seats behind him there was an escapee from Portlaoise prison who was released years ago - sitting behind my father and I remember looking through a crack in the set cos I wanted to see was Daddy laughing or disgusted, but he was in hysterics laughing and the man behind him was in hysterics laughing and I often...I do say oh my god...look what we have done with a bit of craic on the stage and everybody was hitting one another - did you hear that....[03:43:07:14] nobody knew anybody and I knew... I knew that I had moved people ...and I mean, it's ridiculous to say it but it changed people's minds on what we'd done that night in that play. Absolutely changed them - changed their opinion and people was brought down slightly about saying things - they thought it was amazing - y'know ...it was very bold to do it but we done it and it really it....[03:43:31:19]

Q: And humor was the key?

**CAROL:** Without the shadow of a doubt ....y'know every show that I have y'know....I have to bring something to do with y'know the orange and the green into it because I do think....I don't know... maybe I have the gift of just bringing it right to the very edge - not far enough for it to fall over but just enough for people to say ...and then laugh y'know...but I have to say it was through art...art is one of the ways - art and sports and I say this in every show - I said - get your kids into art, the arts - any part of the arts, music and sport... and that will keep them integrated [03:44:10:03]

Q: It's expression as well.

**CAROL:** Oh for sure

Q: Did your family go to see any of Carol's work?

**TONY:** [03:44:17:02] They're not great theatre goers to be honest with you - they rarely went to see me even before Carol joined the group that I was in so I didn't really. I just took it for granted that they're not really into theatre or that sort of thing so I just, after a few performances I just let it go, they're not going to come...they came to some ...but few...but I think it's one of the ways as Carol says, of developing community you know cohesion and stuff ....and even as far as me living that 90% ..99% housing estate with

Carol initially, If I could be one person to get out and meet some other people and be able to wave to my neighbors and when they're taking in their dustbins and say hullo and lend them a hand if they were carrying something heavy and then I could knock on their door and say could you lend me a spade?....[03:45:24] that one person is not a danger to the 99, to the 99 people but you are an example of what can happen to them, it makes them think maybe they're not all the same or we could maybe live with one or two more of those people in our community - there wouldn't be any danger and they are quite ok - and the same with drama, they slowly...this place here by slowly bringing in people without meaning really to do anything...directly about that community cohesion, but by slowly just making everybody feel welcome at home and part of a team, you can slowly...subconsciously bring them to not thinking about being different so they slowly become just....don't think about it, just come here....or...[03:45:46:14] **(Carol)** You have to draw them in, you can't force them or invite them you have to draw them in - and I'm amazing at drawing them in, and once you get them in y'know there's no turning back - once you get them in - I mean like that drama today we were drew into that all right !! [03:46:00:03] Y'know so there's no turning back so, things like that there ...if you are good at drawing them in - once you draw a group in, and then do your work, your magic on them whatever ...it's unbelievable how people leave after a really good workshop or piece of drama or whatever [03:46:18:17] **(Tony)** I think that's why politicians will not succeed cos they always have their agenda...their markers for their position and all that there - this is a neutral sort of thing that doesn't have any agenda behind it and it'll work, where politicians always have an agenda or a...a background that will go a certain direction **(Carol)** I met Martin McGuinness - remember we met Martin McGuinness - never met him like - never shaken his hand - not telling anybody that! but we were at... We were at Yeats grave up in Sligo when we were away for a weekend and we were coming out and Martin McGuinness was walking as well, we were all coming out of the graveyard....and I thought oh my God... ten years ago I would have fainted y'know but now I looked at him and thought he's just an ordinary man that's doing a job ...y'know and I felt...actually felt sorry for him - I felt my god he's an awful lot on his shoulders that has to prove to his people and prove to our people and that must be one hell of a job to have to do...to keep us happy - to keep them happy - y'know to keep everybody happy - it's unreal [03:47:29:08] and then we went back to the dining room the next morning and Nuala O'Loan ...she was having her toast with us too - we were - I thought - is it a sign that I have to stand for election next year? (laugh) [03:47:40:24]

Q: And you wouldn't do that would you?

**CAROL:** D'you know this here ....it has been talked about....would I stand for election? I probably would be thrown out of the council houses or council offices the first night because I think I'd get a good vote - cos I'm a very...I'm a peoples person and I love - I love people...I absolutely love people and I hate their pain and I always try and eliminate pain by our drama groups, no matter what the pain comes from....I love to eliminate

it....and I imagine ...I tell you now I could flipping do a better job than a good few of the politicians and our councilors - I would say that to them no problem [03:48:23:18]

Q: As an independent then?

**CAROL:** No I wouldn't stand for election and I'll tell you why...here what I'm doing I have no red tape - nobody's holding my hands here or tying my hands ...I'm free to do whatever I want in this place - I can bring in....we had a Portuguese night here - 80 Portuguese / African people came into this building and they had a ball... I can let them out and bring in the Polish - I can have a Catholic night and a Protestant night - I can have a mixed night whatever but if I was on the council and I was .....even independent ...you'd have to be good mannered and you'd have to go down a path - I'm not like that - I don't think we should be here with...we need certain rules and regulations but I don't do rules and regulations ...I think, I'm a free burden..I like everybody to express how they are feeling.....so no I'll not be standing for election ...just in case people, that rumor gets out [03:49:19:00] wouldn't do it....I think they would vote me in actually....

Q: Carol when I thought when you said if you scratch the surface it could erupt again?....

**CAROL:** [03:49:33:22] Without a shadow...there's people waiting on it .....you know that red face - you know the way they were sitting today? That's....that's absolutely ....there are some...but you know this...I'm not sure....cos you're from Dublin...I'm not sure if you know the hold that the Troubles had on people - you ask any pharmacy or any GP how many prescribed drugs there are for depression,....where did all these suicides come out of? ...and I sit and I think this and...please God if this ever would get on a video what I'm going to say....but whenever...like I mean there's been horrific things and y'know the Omagh bombing and Teebane up the road and that shooting and y'know other peoples shooting....but there were people who were addicted to that - there had to be people addicted to being given an order to do a job...and making the phone call - I've done it - on the news that night - now I don't imagine anybody who shot people or blew them up were sitting in a house...some people would think they're all laughing the night and y'know drinking beer - I don't think that happened....[03:50:48:20] I think that the people that done the killings, on both sides,.....they were trying to make a point - of course they were trying to make a point but they done it by murdering and...the bigger the bomb or whatever the more recognition they would get and the nearer to their goal that they would get ....but....I, I never....I, I don't know.... I just think when then all the Troubles stopped and blaring of horns one night that everything was all come good....that's when it come bad....cos nobody was ever weaned off the Troubles....it was taken off them overnight.....bury your guns its over....well, I'm addicted to chocolate....and if you take my chocolate off me overnight I, I would really get the shakes and if you said to me you're never allowed chocolate again - and that's simplifying it - I'd be distraught - so I can only imagine to be addicted to the adrenalin of shooting a man or a woman or blowing up somebody to get attention for your side, for

the political divide....to take that off them overnight and not wean them off it  
[03:51:58:09] ...there was a period there where nothing happened to nobody....and then we have suicides...a lot of...all our...stabblings - stabblings is taken off up here - we used to be you would hear of a stabbing in Cork or down in Kerry but there was never none of this happening now - now we've drugs ..... y'know so....we're no better off because there's peace because all these other elements of stuff that the people are getting their kicks out of have gone into so....really and truly we have an awful lot of cleaning up to do to make people feel happy, but I do think....that whenever they ended....when the Good Friday agreement and all was signed - the people who were getting the praise for doing that forgot about the people in-between that was doing their work for them when they were giving orders [03:52:50:16] so now all these people feel abandoned and rejected....y'know like if I was your boss at the times of the Troubles and you said to me it's over Carol - it's completely over and then I'm looking at you in a new 3 piece suit and a big wage packet and I'm still in the Brew - you're not giving me the money you used to give me or the praise you used to give me for doing the work for you.... sure how do you think I would feel? [03:53:12:13] I'd feel totally abandoned and totally rejected....so y'know while people say oh....they're wreaking and tearing... I understand why they are wreaking and tearing..... they were addicted to an adrenalin that they were told was...y'know going to be...if you do this for us we are going to have the most wonderful country in the world...and them critters overnight were told NOT to do it any more, and I'm sure the people giving the orders didn't take them all into a room and do a 10 week course on how to wean themselves off this adrenalin and put them onto a different adrenalin - so they found it themselves....[03:53:54:08] in a not so nice way...

Q: So it could erupt again?....

**CAROL:** oh for sure...

Q: It kind of is already in pockets isn't it? Still a lot of anger.

**CAROL:** [03:54:06:21] But y'know you'll always seek that adrenalin ...if there was a time in your life with that adrenalin rush y'know and....and somebody saying 'well done' 'Good man'....I don't know what happened sure I was never...but I'm just ...I'm only surmising in my head 'oh my god that was brilliant...well done ...good bit of work tonight'...and then take it off you...y'know..you're left with nothing, no praise, no money, no future... [03:54:29:22] ...the way YOU saw...the way you were TOLD that the future was going to happen...it's been taken off you..so I, I look at all of them and ....all of our politicians on both sides and I think Oh my god I feel...I really feel sorry for them ....for they had to make the transition overnight and then try to draw in ..y'know...but it's still drawing in two different crowds - there's never one party that can draw in both crowds [03:54:57:17] and that's just sad y'know?

Q: And do you think there's a solution to that? Is there a way that these people who have been left, as it were, is there a therapy that can be done for these people, something that can be done by society to help them?

**CAROL:** [03:55:21:03] Well y'know we just have to keep on working at what we are doing, it's....it's not too late, because if you say it's too late then everybody goes oh god I'm stuck in this dark hole, there's a lot of people in dark holes at the minute ...OK at one time I thought I could ...heal the world...and then when you realize it's too big, you can't even heal your own town ...I think leading by example is absolutely the best way forward is to lead by example...I don't know...y'know it would be so lovely - I'm a peace woman - I love harmony...hate pain ...but I love people, I don't care who they are, what color their skin is, what shape or size doesn't come into it - I LOVE people - I hate their pain...I love to see them reaching their full potential because everybody has it but that middle bracket of people now that have been left behind, don't know it. [03:56:15:00] They only ever saw themselves as being perfect because they were told they were perfect after doing something horrific for the cause, on both sides, and then they were left with no education, most of them....no money, no praise , they were left with nothing - and they were abandoned – the people were abandoned [03:56:34:05]

Q: And the onus is on the leaders basically?

**CAROL:** [03:56:37:10] Well I...how can the leaders now go back and say we're on a different shift here, y'know, we're on the turn again, because then it's going to create more problems.... I don't know I think there needs to be...I don't know...I really have no answer - if I had the answer for that ...well y'know there would be tents in Cookstown and we'd all be living in one tent ...I don't know ...but I do think there's a way – y'know if you can build wee pockets of harmony and spread that to another wee pocket and spread it to another wee pocket then at least we're doing something every day - I don't think we should stop because we're only changing the minds of 3 people a week - I think those 3 people are very important and they can change 3 more the next week ...and that's, it's going to be a long process...but...I think eventually it will come round ....[03:57:23:15]Q that's a positive note to end....

**End of Interview**