

Interview Transcript: Jim McManus



Well, when I was a child, I used to go to the Wolf Cubs and on the way back from the Wolf Cub meetings I used to walk past the doors of the theatre at Streatham Hill, and in the evening, you look through the glass doors and see the people on the stage, and I thought I like that idea and they used to watch.

Usually, it was the end of the evening and so all I got was the curtain call, but I never had the money to go in. But when I grew up, I found some, I found the money to go in.

I knew I was going to be an actor from my childhood. I used to give shows in the chicken house in the back garden, you know. My mum... the stage that we had... we had a stage in our kitchen, which was a huge kitchen table my mum had bought in Brixton and then transported up when we lived in Clapham - Clapham Park as it was then called - and so we... like I say used to commandeer my brothers to come because that was big enough to be the stage.

But then when, of course, I became an actor, it [Streatham Hill Theatre] was on the touring list. If you toured... if you've been in a show of any length in the West End, those shows always used to tour, and Streatham Hill Theatre was one of the number one dates.

Basically, it was handy for the actors to get home if they were doing a tour after a West End run, and so you get sometimes... some big stars would be prepared to do that, so they could they could live in their flat in say Croydon, wherever it was they lived.

<http://streathamhilltheatre.org/jim-mcmanus-remembers-streatham-hill-theatre>