

TRANSCRIPT

Collection title:	
Ref number:	ORAL/5/1 AND ORAL/5/2
Interviewee:	Rudolph 'Rudi' Patterson (b. Sep 1933. Duckenfield Jamaica)
Interviewer:	Kelly Foster
Transcription:	

Date of interview	4/7/2013	No. of tracks/files	2
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KF: And what made you think that you wanted to come to England?

RP: Because what I wanted to do, I just thought if I get to England I would be able to do it. And probably do it better which maybe isn't the case but, that's how I felt about it. And then my parents, my Mum actually thought if you want to really learn to act or to dance or to whatever then it's probably best that you go to England. And then, and, all this through comes from the fact that Harry Belafonte had then made a name for himself and he's Jamaican. So, he sort of give you a lil', a boost, to try and do these things for yourself.

KF: So did you want to be the next the Harry Belafonte?

RP: Not quite no, but I mean [laughs] I wouldn't have minded [laughs]. No... but no...

KF: So can you tell me...

RP: Something similar maybe...

KF: Can you tell me when you arrived in England?

RP: When I arrive in England it was er, it was quite a shock really. But um... shocking in the sense that erm. I went er, I arrive and I went to visit with some cousins of mine in Kilburn I remember, and they had drawn the curtain, liked the curtains drawn. And then they opened the curtain and it was like eight o'clock and I thought no... it's still light out there. And they were trying to show me what it was like and I thought, it can't be... it's supposed to be dark, and it wasn't dark. So that was one of my surprise. Yes.

KF: How did you travel to England from Jamaica?

RP: On a plane. A great big plane. Yes, I can't remember the name of the plane. But I saw a picture of it the other day. I have it in my folder.

KF: What did you bring with you?

RP: Yes, lots of clothes, that's all. And a hat [laughs] one of my uncle gave me, which I didn't want but I took it just the same because he gave it to me. But I thought I don't want a hat thank you very much. Yeah, when I came I realised I do need a hat, keep my head warm. But then didn't arrive in um winter time actually. So it wasn't too bad.

KF: So, where did the plane leave from in Jamaica?

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RP: From um, what was it called then? Palisadoes Airport? Yeah. The airport in Kingston. Yeah.

KF: And who went to the airport to see you off?

RP: Um... my brother... went and school friends... and cousins and then.... I decided I don't think I want to go now [laughs] [inaudible] after I thought no I don't think I want to leave. You know, anyway, I had had [inaudible] they keep pushing me and saying " you much get on the plane. Get on the plane". So, that was it.

KF: Was it tearful?

RP: Er?

KF: Was it tearful?

RP: Yes, very. Even, for yeah well... he didn't mind about crying anyway. Yeah, it was quite tearful actually. Pressing my nose against the windowpane, all the way, [laughs]. You know. Couldn't sit down for a minute, I mean just thinking. Mind you after having couple of rum punches I thought I might as well settle down. And go on, carry the journey on. Yeah.