



Andy Crump – Actor

Jon Okay, so I'm with Andy Crump, who was an actor for many years in England. Andy, how long have you been in Brittany?

Andy Well we bought our house in 2004, um, it was a ruin and we've been doing it up, but we actually moved here officially at the end of last year.

Jon And you're doing it up at the minute?

Andy We are. Yes, lots, lots, lots and lots and lots to do, it's still going to take a few years to get it where we want it to be but it's a very interesting project so we're really enjoying it.

Jon And it's got some interesting architectural features.

Andy Oh it certainly has. We've got huge boulders – the house is built on very, very large boulders, and had some ecclesiastical connections with a carving on the front with a chalice and a date of 1820, and 400 year-old yew tree outside the front door. And as I say, it's a very, very beautiful building.

Jon And you have other projects in mind as well, not just architecturally, but culturally.

Andy Yes, yes. Culturally, as I say, yes. I must admit, as I say, as I say, I haven't done a lot of professional acting for the last few years. I have done some, in England, some um some good quality amateur stuff, but I would like to get involved in a bit more over here and perhaps start up a... an amateur group in the local area.

Jon Do you suspect that there is an appetite among the British community?

Andy Well I think so. I mean I've talked to a lot... a of ... certainly among the English. I mean it would be primarily in English, although it would be nice a few years down the line, to perhaps, to get into some French stuff, I don't know. As I say, it depends on how good the French gets, I suppose. But yes, I certainly think there are certain people that would like to do it. And, as I say, providing we promote it well enough, hopefully we can have an audience a well.

Jon Right. How good is your French?

Andy My French is ... I'd say *comme ci comme ça*. I can more or less make myself understood in any situation. Um, if not, gesticulations and whatever ... but yes, I mean I do enjoy language. I always enjoyed language at school and what have you, but as I say that was quite a long while ago now.

Jon Right, Andy, give us an idea of what you, you were in in Britain, theatre-wise.

Andy Well, as I say, I went to drama college in 1993. Went quite late – I didn't go until I was 28. Uum.. I've done a lot ... mainly theatre. I've not ... I've done very small, extra stuff on tv. I've never really done a tv film. Really all theatre, but I do a lot of pantomimes. I did a couple of ... I was in an opera, a new



opera. Um, I've done children's shows, a lot of chi... children-orientated stuff. Worked with some lovely people, some nice names and things, and as I say, as far as ... (??) directing some quite good stuff. And one of my favourite things which is, my most recent thing is the Alan Bennett monologue A Chip in the Sugar, which I can resurrect quite regularly if I need to.

Jon Could you give us a sample?

Andy Of... ooh yes, let's have a think. I parked her in her usual place, um, outside ... ummm .. what else?

Jon Whoops. Good, coz we can start again, that fell out. While you're retrieving that memory, what was the opera?

Andy The opera was a new opera called The Promise. It was actually write, um, for, um I think it was ten opera singers, an actor, and 150 children, and we performed it at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on the South Bank, and in Horsham, and then sort of round about the early, early 2000s ... no ...yeah, round about the 2000s I think, if I remember rightly.

Jon And I take it you were the actor?

Andy I was the actor, and it was the, er, from the Creation until the Resurrection, and I played Satan. So I was rather ...

Jon Well cast.

Andy Yes. I mean I've actually played the devil now, I think, three times. I don't know if that says something about, um ...

Jon Sounds pretty diabolical to me.

Andy Yes. Very, very dia ... yes. So, it was, it was a really super, super scene, and it was, er, I had this ...it was, uh sort of costu...., it was sort of costumed of the period, but I had like a, what I would say a cassock sort thing on with droopy sleeves, and I had this white, white make-up, which I dubbed it all myself and what have you, but it was a very, very interesting thing. And then I started in a ... saying it was ... yes, I started, actually I started in a suit, saying that, if I remember rightly. With all red, and nice command volcanoes erupting. It was a very, very interesting project. But with 150 children I also had a role of having to control them with the teachers trying to keep them quiet behind stage, which was not very easy when you've got 150 children standing in the wings.

Jon So what would your dream role be?

Andy My dream? Well, I've actually done one of my dream roles.

Jon God?

Andy I played the cowardly lion in The Wizard of Oz, with one of the cast members from 'Allo, Allo', who was the tin man, Arthur Bottom, that played the policeman. I really, really enjoyed that. And, as I



say, the Alan Bennett is, is fabulous. I suppose other roles – Fagin, I would love to play Fagin in Oliver. And also Higgins in My Fair Lady.

Jon And which famous actors have you worked with?

Andy Famous actors? Well, as I say, I've worked with a lot of people ... I mean Warwick Davies, I've acted with on a couple of occasions. Diana Rees-Jordan, Philip Madoc, I was Philip Madoc's understudy in a pantomime one year. Goodness me, he says ... was quite few years ... Jess Conrad ... now that's, now that's a blast from the past! One of the 60's ... the original Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat. I was his understudy as well in a pantomime. And there are a couple of Blue Peter presenters and things like that, but ... yes.

Jon What brought you to Brittany in the first place?

Andy Well, as I say, Alan's my partner. His brother's got a place in Dinan, or near Dinan, and we used to visit out there and we really enjoyed it and thought perhaps it would be nice to have a holiday home here. And then, as I say, obviously it ended up turning out we really loved it, so, so no we're gonna can make it a permanent home – specially with Brexit and things.

Jon And what about the Breton culture and Breton people, what do you ...

Andy Well, as I say, it's very interesting actually, because as I say we've been to ... I'm talking as though I'm still talking to the tape ... no, we've um ... I think the Bretons are very, very different to the Normans. We've actually been to quite a few places in Brittany and Normandy, and the Bretons are very happy, they're very, very chatty, smiley people, whereas the Normans they can be far more surly. It's very surprising. Yeah, really surprising. Really, really surprising. In general, in general, people are very welcoming here.