



Rob interviewing Lou in Paule about Bar à Paroles

Rob: I was driving through the small village of Paule this morning and noticed a caravan, a trailer, and a large sign, that says Bar aux Paroles. So I had to stop and, fortunately, I found a person who can tell me what this is all about. I am speaking to Lou. Hello Lou.

Lou: Pleased to meet you.

Rob: Tell me what is this Bar à Parole all about.

Lou: Well we're a theatre group. We're five or six depending on the days, and we're harvesting words, small stories and feelings about the Kreiz Breiz Community, how people find life here and we're going to make a play about it, write, and create a play and we're going to play it - around the neighbourhood, next year.

Rob: Next year? So at the moment you're just listening to what people have to say about living here in Brittany.

Lou: Yeah, exactly.

Rob: And what kind of things have you been picking up?

Lou: Well, We've got really, I'd say, two different types of point of views, some people are saying that a ton of stuff is happening here, there's many associations and activities if you know where to look, and some people are saying that there's nothing to do and it's quite a desert area, but the thing that everybody agrees about is that this place is amazing and it's a paradise, and everybody should live here. Well, they want to stay here but don't want too much people coming to live here.

Rob: Right. Because the pleasure of the place is it's not overcrowded.

Lou: Yeah

Rob: And it's true that there are some aspects of life which are difficult here, because there aren't enough doctors, there aren't enough dentists, it's a medical desert here, but the fact that you're here is an example of what can happen in the middle of central Brittany.

Lou: Exactly

Rob: So where have you come from?



Lou: We come from the north of Rennes.

Rob: North of Rennes?

Lou: Yeah, and we were asked by the CCKB (la Communauté de Communes of the Kreiz-Breizh) to do this harvesting, and this play.

Rob: OK, ok so they're behind you on this are they?

Lou: Yes.

Rob: So that's really good.

Lou: Sure. So every day we're going into two different towns. Sometimes it's just like today in Paule, we're in front of the Town Hall and we're just waiting for people to come by and knocking on doors asking people 'what do you think about life here?'

Rob: Have you been doing this for a while?

Lou: We started on Tuesday and we'll be here until tonight, and then we're coming back in October to finish the series with that visit. And there is also a second group, a different group, from the same company, and they're going in different towns and they're doing a play, which is called La Soupe au Caillou.

Rob: Called?

Lou: La Soupe au Caillou.

Rob: La Soupe au Caillou?

Lou: Rug Soup.

Rob: Excellent, excellent.

Lou: It's a story about a wolf that comes into town and all the animals are extremely scared about him but he's extremely nice and all he wants is to do the rug soup.

Rob: That sounds like a crazy kind of play, but, you know, why not?

Lou: Well, it's very nice, people come by and the price of entry is a vegetable. So you bring your vegetable and the first part is everybody cuts it, put it the water and

the second part is while the soup is cooking, people see the play and then everybody eats it.

Rob: That's a great idea.

Lou: Yeah

Rob: I'm really interested by. You've got a little box, here. Boite aux lettres, letter box. But a boite aux secrets. What's that for?

Lou: Yeah, we've got a secret box, and we also got a boite a cris.

Rob: A Cris?

Lou: Yeah. A yelling box

Rob: A yell box?

Lou: Yeah.

Rob: Is that for rude words?

Lou: No. Not at all. What we do is when we come in some cities, we open the yell box and we yell the words in it. So, if you want to put anything that you want us to yell for you, you can do it - and we'll yell it. In an artistic way of course. And the secret box is for things that you think we shouldn't say, In the play. Secrets. We'll keep for us. Or if you've got a big secret that's hard to keep and you have to tell somebody, that you don't know, you can put it in the secret box. The letter box is for people to put in letters for the next village That we're going to visit.

Rob: OK. Tell me, generally, what kind of response you've had from people?

Lou: Well, at first we always ask kind of the same question - how is life here? And people say 'good.' calm, peaceful, and the weather's good.

Rob: Right, now it is.

Lou: It is, very good. We've had sun every day. Well, it really depends on the, I say, the age, and there is a difference between the small villages and the bigger towns, we don't have the same response, answers.



Rob: Tell me a little bit about this name, OCUS? This is OCUS. It's a really unusual name, I couldn't work out what it meant, but you're going to tell me, it stands for something?

Lou: It stand, so there is company. OCUS. So Companie. O for Optimist, C for Creators, creator, so U is for Utopie, and S for Spectacular. So it's an optimist company, creative of spectacular utopies.

Rob: And we can look forward to seeing a play from OCUS next year?

Lou: Next year. We don't know yet when or where it's going to be, but it's going to be in the Kries Briez, that's for sure.

Rob: OK

Lou: We will at least play two times. Maybe three.

Rob: I'm looking forward to that. Lou, thanks ever so much for explaining to me and congratulations to the whole group.

Lou: Thank you. Thanks a lot.