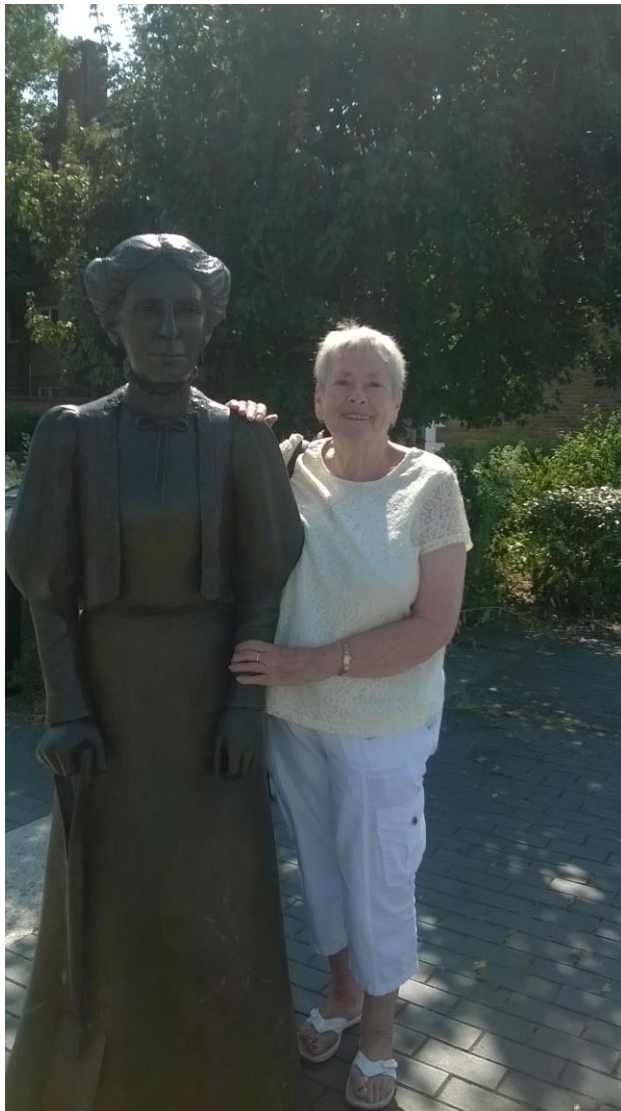


## From a Whisper to a Roar

Interview Summary	
<b>Name:</b> Val Harvey	<b>Date:</b> 26.06.2019 <b>Age:</b> 75
<b>Key issues:</b> Silence around lesbianism. Lesbians in nursing. Gateways. AIDs – nursing, education, treatment of the dying. The Lighthouse. Section 28. Carnation for a Song.	
<b>Narrative summary</b> ‘Everyone should have an Auntie Ethel’- Val begins by telling us about her aunt and the woman she lived with, but how their relationship was never acknowledged. She went to London and trained to be a nurse. She married and speaks of the position of power in which men stood in the 60’s. She found herself attracted to a woman but did not fully embrace her lesbian identity until later. She speaks about going to the Gateways and the butch/femme scene of the 60’s. She was a district nurse in the 80’s and the first AIDs patient ever attended by a district nurse was on her patch. She began working in health promotion and education about AIDs which was surrounded by ignorance, myths and, above all, a culture of fear and prejudice against gay men. She talks powerfully about the experience of nursing so many young men. She lost 127 men in 10 years of nursing. She speaks of the way she had to find GPs and Funeral Directors who would deal with the patients with compassion. She would not wear a uniform when visiting patients as it was essential that neighbours did not realise that they had an AIDs sufferer in their midst. She speaks about the different attitudes of relatives in a time when long term partners of dying men had no rights to be informed of their partner’s condition or treatment. Some partners were excluded. In another case a man who was fearfully closeted for many years was lovingly supported by his sisters who ‘always knew’. She also attended patients at the Lighthouse which was a hospice and also delivered education and some alternative therapies. All this played out against an increasingly hostile political climate where Section 28 was being enacted, which was politicising for the whole community and brought people together in the fight. She also speaks about a recent experience of performing in Carnation For a Song at the Young Vic and the very positive reaction she received from young people who hadn’t realized what had happened and who were grateful for how Val’s generation had paved the way for the greater freedoms enjoyed today.	
	<b>Length of interview:</b> 40 mins



Evelyn: So, this is an interview for From a Whisper to a Roar, an oral history project, conducted by Open Doors London, and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Today is the 26th of June, 2019. And, I'm interviewing the lovely Val.

Evelyn: Could you start by telling me a little bit about your early days, and how you came to an understanding of who you really are?

Val: I was brought up in Newcastle on Tyne. I went to school there. I did my nurse training. But, I always thought I should be in London. I used to come to London for my holidays with my auntie Ethel. Everybody should have an auntie Ethel. She was my father's oldest sister, and there was a big age gap between them.

Val: And, my auntie Ethel lived with a lady I called auntie Dorothy. It was never mentioned, ever mentioned. These ladies were born just before 1900s, so the 1890s, that sort of era. So, it was never, ever mentioned.

Val: But, I always thought London was where I was supposed to be. At the time, because being lesbian was never mentioned, Ethel and Dorothy were just my aunties. I never thought anything of it.

Val: It was only as I grew up and started to look at them, I thought, "Well, of course there it is. How could you miss it?" But, they never, ever mentioned it. And, I wouldn't either.

Evelyn: Wasn't it really done in those days, was it?

Val: No. I mean, sex of any sort was never mentioned, but particularly for lesbians, no. And, I would always respect that.

Evelyn: When did you feel first same sex attraction then?

Val: Well, I came down to London. And, I did what many of my age did. I got married.

Evelyn: What sort of time are we here, what year?

Val: That would be 1966. I was 22. The marriage had its problems. I think I should've spent longer in London on my own before I sort of settled down and got married. It had its problems.

Val: And, after a few years, I met ... Well, she was actually one of my colleagues. And, I fell in love with a woman. And, it was quite a surprise to me. Something I hadn't thought about. But, I did.

Val: But, because I was married, and that's the way things were in those days, and I couldn't leave that secure married life, she fell in love with somebody else and went. But, when I look back at it, I think life would've been very different.

Evelyn: But, in those days, being on your own as a woman was really difficult, wasn't it? In terms of you couldn't get a mortgage.

Val: Oh, no. Nothing like that. No.

Evelyn: Unless you had a man to stand guarantee.

Val: Yeah.

Evelyn: And, even bank accounts and things like that could be quite difficult.

Val: They could. I did have a bank account. Yes. And, it was my father actually who opened for me. That was probably how that was done, looking back on it. But, it was his signature originally that got the bank account for me.

Val: But, no. Living on your own as woman ... If people think the '60s was all this enlightenment. And, it wasn't really. It was still difficult. As a woman, it was still difficult.

Evelyn: How long did you stay in your marriage?

Val: We were married about seven years. And then, we split up after that.

Evelyn: What happened next for you?

Val: Then, I had one more straight relationship. And, that was unsuccessful as well. That didn't last too long.

Evelyn: Surprise, surprise!

Val: Yes. Because I became more aware then that really I was attracted to women. I thought of myself maybe as bisexual, because I thought I'd have a straight relationship, but only I was still attracted to women.

Val: But eventually, I thought, "Hey, really? I'm not attracted to men anymore. I am only attracted to women."

Evelyn: And so, how was that within nursing in those times?

Val: Not that easy actually. Because it was an all female environment, most of my nursing colleagues were straight. And, it wasn't an easy thing to come out, as a lesbian, or to be accepted as a lesbian, within the nursing world in those days.

Val: I think that's probably a lot easier now. But certainly, if you go back to '60s, '70s, depending on where you worked, some of the smaller London hospitals were much more open. But, the big sort of training hospitals and things, it was quite regimented. You could be quite discriminated against. It wasn't the easiest thing.

Evelyn: Did you feel that straight women would be worried that you were going to hit on them, or?

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: Yes. So, it was kind of less acceptable in an all female environment?

Val: Virtually all female environment, yes. A lot of the male nurses were gay. And, that was all right. But, the female nurse, no. That was different.

Evelyn: Where did you go to meet people?

Val: I did have some colleagues who were lesbian. And, we would meet up then. I did go to Gateways a few times. Yes.

Evelyn: The famous Gateways?

Val: The famous Gateways.

Evelyn: Discrete doorway?

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: Down the stairs.

Val: Down the stairs, yes.

Evelyn: Into the basement.

Val: Right. Into the basement, yes. And, it took a bit of courage to go down the little road and knock on the door. It took a bit of courage to go down the stairs. And, people would turn and look. And oooh. It took a bit of courage.

Evelyn: And, it was all membership organization, wasn't it?

Val: Yeah.

Evelyn: How did you get to be a member?

Val: I don't remember. I think you just sort of signed in. I did have friends who were members. So, maybe they signed me in. Yes.

Evelyn: They probably nominated you. Yeah. We're in the '60s, how did you recognize other women? How did you find your tribe? With the particular clothes? Was it short haircuts, or?

Val: It was very much more butch and femme in those days, yes. And, you could easily see the butches. Yeah. And, you could see the couples. I think it was much more stereotypical in those days, '60s, through '70s, certainly much more stereotypical.

Evelyn: And so, we're looking at the '60s and on into '70s. And, there was quite big political movements going on the time. there was the women's movement. There was Greenham Common. Did you have an interest to get involved in any of those?

Val: I didn't very much, no. I'm looking back on the '70s. No. I wasn't very political in those days. I think I was pleased to be out of my marriage, out of straight relationships. I was pleased actually to be on my own, and actually sort of living a freer life.

Val: I was living, at the time, around Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove area, which was a cool place to be.

Evelyn: Yes. It would've been around about then. It would indeed. So, you are in the nursing world, and moving through the '70s, presumably you had social life, you had your nursing.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: Moving into the '80s. What happened for you there?

Val: Yeah. Moving into the '80s, again, I was living around the Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill area. I was district nursing for a quite a long time. That was good. I enjoyed that. And, I was also a health and safety rep for the Royal College of Nursing.

Val: When HIV first came up, I was invited to all these sort of seminars and things like that to talk all about this. And, I thought, "Well." There was so much fear around. Everybody was, "Whoa!" Backing off.

Evelyn: When the first word of a virus started to come through, what sort of things were said in those early days? How did people feel their way around?

Val: A lot of discrimination, because it was really seen as a gay disease, although it spread outwards, obviously. But, it was seen as a gay ... I mean, it was called GRID, Gay Related Immune Deficiency syndrome, originally.

Val: There was a lot of stigma, a lot of fear, particularly around the nursing world, the medical world, because we thought, "What have got? And, are we in danger of catching this?"

Val: This was the main fear. That we would catch it.

Evelyn: Because nobody knew, initially, how it was transmitted?

Val: No. Because I was health and safety rep, and I had some training, and I thought, "Well actually, this is not so bad. You can't just catch this whilst you're sitting next to them on the bus, or going into their home or anything like that. Well, that's not so bad. Let's look at this."

Val: A friend of mine came back from New York with it, in 1986, and died very soon, very soon after that. That was my first sort of initial feeling of seeing people with AIDS.

Val: And then, I was district nursing. And, the very first patient with AIDS ever seen by the district nurses, just so happened to be in my patch. He was also a nursing colleague. And, that brought its own, "Whoa!" Because everybody knew him.

Val: And, I think that started a crusade in me, because this was so difficult, so difficult to imagine, even though who he was. And, there wasn't the stigma, among the local nursing people. But, even so, it was so difficult in those days.

Evelyn: How did doctors approach it? And other nurses?

Val: There was a unit in the hospital for people with HIV, and specific doctors. GPs were variable. And, I very soon got to know which ones would be welcoming, and which won't. And, I picked those out, very quickly, the ones who said, "Being HIV is not a bar to be treated in this ... " That's good.

Val: Nursing-wise, it was a bit more difficult because there's more hands on. When you're a district nurse, you're into somebody else's environment, however that environment may be, luxury or not, clean or not. You're in that environment. You're also talking about much more personal care.

Val: From a district nursing point of view, again, I soon realised where the problems would be. You couldn't actually refuse. But, where the ones who would really do the absolute minimum and try not to see them.

Val: I did quite a lot of health promotion work. I had a friend who was working in HIV, in health promotion for HIV. And, we did quite a lot of work together, just educating nurses, educating social services, home helps. I couldn't get a home help to go in. Nobody would go in. All that kind of thing.

Val: And, we had to get over these stigmas to actually get the education across, that you could go in.

Evelyn: And, for kind of future generations maybe, the HIV developed into AIDS and kind of took people in very different ways. So, some people would die very, very quickly. Other people lived for much longer.

Evelyn: So, tell us a little bit about how it affected people.

Val: Yes. I'm going back to the later '80s, when there was very little treatment. AZT was the only treatment, originally. And, it wasn't that successful. Gradually, a few more drugs came up.

Val: But, most people, by the time I saw them, within a few months they were dead. Remember that testing was only just coming in as well. A lot of people

had been actually HIV positive for many years, and actually presented with a full blown AIDS diagnosis, because they had never been tested.

Val: And, it was those people who often came and went from the diagnosis to death within about six months. The deterioration was dramatic. People would have the opportunistic infections like pneumocystis pneumonia. A lot of them went blind with cytomegalovirus. The young men got kaposi's sarcoma, this nasty sort of skin cancer, some of which became very nasty, nasty sort of fungating nasty.

Val: The whole thing, the range of illnesses was quite staggering. And, the type of illness, the severity of the illness. People who got herpes was ... Now, we consider herpes as a fairly minor condition. It's easily treatable.

Val: The way it affected people was absolutely horrendous, because they had no immune system to counteract this. I had one young man who virtually died of thrush, of oral thrush. It was so bad.

Val: And, those kind of things, we hadn't seen before. The medical staff, the nursing stuff, we hadn't seen this sort of thing before. It was horrifying, absolutely horrifying. And, you'd watch these young men wasting away, literally wasting away.

Evelyn: And, it did decimate a generation of beautiful young men, effectively.

Val: It did. Yes. Absolutely, yes.

Evelyn: Some people would have loads of their friends who disappeared virtually over a short period of weeks or months.

Val: Yeah. Absolutely.

Evelyn: But, a really shocking presentation for the medical world.

Val: It was. We hadn't seen anything like it. The severity of the illnesses was shocking, really shocking.

Evelyn: And so, tell me a little bit about the extent of your care for these young men.

Val: I became HIV specialist nurse. And, it was a job more or less created for myself. And, I went out, and I said, "Look, shouldn't we have some specialism here?" And, I got the job as an HIV specialist.

Val: I worked mostly, most of the time, in the community. I went round people's homes, monitoring them, looking at their conditions, helping with medication, things like that. I used to have a little nebulizer in those days, for Pneumocystiasis prevention. It was pentamidine. Actually, little nebulizers. And, tend to take that around with me.



Val: A lot was about monitoring conditions. Also, looking at end of life care. Of course many people wanted to die at home. And, I was able to do that. I had a very good palliative care team, who worked with me. And, they were really, really good. The consultant there was fantastic.

Val: We went right through to end of life care. And, those who wanted to die at home. On the whole, we made it. Some it wasn't possible. Some you hit some sort of drama, where it was unable to cope with at home.

Val: But, on the whole, people died at home if that's what they wanted, or I went a lot to the lighthouse. People went into the lighthouse. And, it would-

Evelyn: Can you explain the lighthouse?

Val: Yes. The lighthouse was a centre for people with AIDS. It was a hospice, as well as having a lot of education and alternative therapies, and groups and that kind of thing, support groups. But, it was also a hospice. People used to go there for respite care, or to die there.

Val: It was a big unit. And, that opened in the early '80s, about 1984 maybe, something like that, that opened, because I do remember there was some prejudice from some of the local populations in case the sewage was contaminated with AIDS.

Val: But, that's how it was.

Evelyn: It was a climate of fear.

Val: Yes. That's how it was. I do remember that. That people were very worried that their water well and their sewage would be contaminated.

Val: The lighthouse hasn't been there as a hospice for many, many years, and isn't there at all now. I think it's flats and offices, which in a way I found quite sad, because after I left nursing, I did work for a little while at the lighthouse, not when it was a hospice. But, when it was an education unit. I ran a personal development course for people with AIDS there.

Val: And, in some ways it was sad to see that the hospice and everything wasn't there. But, in other ways, it was good, because it meant it wasn't needed.

Evelyn: Needed quite so much, yes. Absolutely. And, did you have any interaction with family or friends?

Val: Yes, a lot. Yes. Partners, obviously, some of whom of course would be positive themselves. And, in the course of time, I sometimes went back into the same home to do the same again, for the second partner.

Val: Families, yes. Quite a lot I had to deal with families. Again, families being families, they varied, and the support given was very variable. I remember quite an elderly man saying he left Ireland a young man, and never ever

spoke to his family about his sexuality, and certainly couldn't tell them about his AIDS diagnosis.

Val: And, it was getting nearer the end. And, he eventually decided ... There were two sisters. He took a deep breath and told. And, these fine, stalwart ladies came over from Ireland, and did everything.

Val: They looked after his house. They looked after him. Everything. Wonderful. Wonderful, they were. And, you think, "Oh! What a shame that he couldn't have told them years ago"

Evelyn: Yeah.

Val: Well you see, walways knew.

Evelyn: So, often the case.

Val: Yes. "We always knew he was gay," they said. "And, we had worried about him." What a shame that you couldn't have told them earlier. And, there were lots about that in families. What a shame you couldn't have told them earlier.

Evelyn: Just hopeful sign.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: But also, this is before for partners, particularly. This is before civil partners.

Val: Oh, yes.

Evelyn: In terms of care and funeral arrangements, and things like that, they would not necessarily have had rights to care for their partners.

Val: No.

Evelyn: Did you come across some situations where the family swept in, and ...

Val: Some, yes. Actually, amazingly not too many. But, yes. There were some, depending sometimes on finances and what was left in the will, and things like that.

Evelyn: Yeah. The family might want to come in and take everything.

Val: And, take, yes.

Evelyn: Take over, because there are stories of people being excluded from helping to put together funeral, et cetera, for their partners that have been with for many year.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: Because the family had the legal rights.

Val: Yes. And, you got that with next of kin, although you could say that your partner was next of kin. Many people actually wouldn't take that. If there was a family member, then that family member would be seen as next of kin. That did happen in the medical world, quite a bit to begin with.

Val: The partners weren't recognized, actually as next of kin, which meant you had no rights, you weren't told what was going on, because whoever it was, mother or sister, or somebody was down as-

Evelyn: Got all the medical information. Yeah.

Val: Was down as next of kin.

Evelyn: And, how was it with the funeral directors?

Val: Again, I learned very quickly which were the funeral directors who would quite happily come. I actually went round a few of them. And, I had one in particular in the area who said, "This is not a problem to us." Because some of them would come in these sort of white forensic suits.

Evelyn: Oh!

Val: "Oh! How could you come to somebody's home like that?" Because I wasn't in uniform. I didn't wear uniforms, again, to try and keep confidentiality for people. But, I had one funeral director who was very good.

Val: They would wear sort of a apron type things, and gloves. But, what they would do, they would put all their equipment in the bag, take it into the home, wear what they needed to do, do what they needed to do, put all that equipment, the gloves and everything, back into the bag so only the bag or the box was seen going in and out. No sort of extra special equipment.

Evelyn: You didn't wear a uniform because you didn't want the neighbours to see you going in and out.

Val: I did. I thought it's confidentiality.

Evelyn: Because there were stories at the time of neighbours being horrendous because of fear of ...

Val: Again, yes. They thought it would somehow leap out of the windows.

Evelyn: And, attack them.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: Looking back at those experiences, do you feel that these lessons that people need to keep in mind today?

Val: Yes, I think so. Yes. I think remember where we came from with regard to AIDS. Remember the stigma and the fear. Remember what all these young men went through at that time.

Val: And, it is different now. It is. I mean, AIDS itself is very different. You're getting the long term survivors. Remember what it was like. And, all the things that the activists did, that we stood up, and we were counted. We stood up there, I went several places, and gave out free condoms with all the hustle that went with that, very often.

Evelyn: Yeah. That was considered really shocking.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: And, the campaign for safe sex was a big issue. And, there was quite a bit of resistance from all sides.

Val: Absolutely, yes. I gave out a lot of leaflets. I gave out a lot of free condoms. I got abused for doing that. Remember, this is what we went through.

Evelyn: Absolutely, because to put it in the wider context, we're in the '80s, and we have the Thatcher administration. And, we have the administration bringing in the section 28 legislation, which-

Val: That was all we needed at that time.

Evelyn: Because for anyone who might not know, section 28 was legislation brought in to prevent councils from allowing schools to promote homosexuality in any way, to really discuss it openly, and to promote it as a "pretended family relationship" was the phrase. Pretended family relationship.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: So, you have these young men dying of AIDS. You have the whole male gay community, certainly, being stigmatized, because they've brought in this disease, essentially to the country. And, you have this ramping up of legislative backbone against it.

Evelyn: And so, just prior to the '80s, what we now think of as the LGBT community was very divided. At the time, it was really gay men and lesbians. And, they were largely pursuing different fights for equality, essentially.

Evelyn: For men, it was a largely legislative fight. And, for the women, there were many, many equality issues, which you've already highlighted when they weren't able to do many things independently.

Evelyn: And so, we get into the '80s. And, what would you consider the ... upside of it all?

Val: I think it did bring the two sides together. I think lot of lesbians looked at their gay friends, their gay male friends, their gay male colleagues and

thought, "Hey! We need to join in here. We need to do something. We need to support these people. We need to do our best."

Val: And then, when section 28 came in, then I think that really united us, because now we very did have fight, because that affected us all. That really did affect us all. There was no male and female which was all section 28, and it affected us all.

Val: And, I think it brought us together. And, I think that togetherness, to a certain extent is still there. I don't think we've separated back to where we were in the '60s and '70s. I think we're much more united.

Evelyn: And, need to be.

Val: And, need be. And, need to be. Yes. I mean, here we go again. The teaching of LGBT relationships in schools, in primary schools and all that upheaval here we go again.

Evelyn: Yes. The project in Birmingham called No Outsiders is creating a similar, if somewhat more localized storm there. We do have resonances between now and then. We do, indeed. And, as you say, it's in a cohesiveness in the community that we can bat those things back.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: So, taking the long view on the different pieces of legislation that have come in around equalities, from your perspective, how was that impacted over time? Do you feel more secure? Do you feel more free? Do you feel more kind of listened to and heard, as a lesbian voice?

Val: Yes, I do. I mean, I do live my life freely. I'm able to do what I want. I can get a mortgage. I can get a bank account. I can do what I want.

Val: I have a partner. We've been together just over 16 years. And, we live our lives freely. We walk around the streets. Er, I don't think we've ever had verbal abuse. As you get older, you become invisible. There is that.

Val: But, generally speaking, we live our lives very openly. I live my life here. My neighbours all know. Nobody bats an eyelid. And, I like to think I can live my life freely as who I am.

Val: There are odd times over the last few years. And, I've looked at, and I've walked along, and seen groups, maybe of young men, and things like that, who turned and looked. And, there's always, in the back of your mind, that little bit of awareness walking around, groups of youngsters.

Val: I have been known to cross the road. Sometimes you brave it up, and sometimes you think, "Hey! Safety here." Look at the two young women on the bus. Look at that.

Evelyn: Shocking.

Val: Isn't that awful? Yes.

Evelyn: Yes. That's two young women who were goaded by a group of men on top of a bus, because they were lesbians, and the men were trying to goad them into kissing each other, et cetera. And, they were physically attacked. Bloody noses.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: So, it hasn't completely gone away.

Val: It hasn't gone away. No.

Evelyn: But, in general?

Val: In general, I live my life quite freely. Yeah.

Evelyn: When you were thinking about me coming along to do this interview, is there anything that you had in mind that we haven't discussed that you thought might come up?

Val: I think really, what I wanted to talk about was AIDS and my work, that I did. But also, the work that so many of us did.

Val: Having just turned *Carnation for a Song*, at the Young Vic recently, one thing that's really intrigued me, afterwards, going back out into theatre bar, the number of young people who came up to me, and said, "Thank you so much." Things that they hadn't realized before. And, "Thank you for telling us all this. And also, thank you for doing what you did, because now we can lead freer lives."

Evelyn: And, thinking of that again, how did it play on your emotions in that time?

Val: A lot.

Evelyn: Because it must've been a hard burden to bear.

Val: It was. Yeah.

Evelyn: I can see you're feeling emotional now thinking about it.

Val: It does. Some of the scenes that we did in *Carnation for a Song* at the Young Vic went back to the early days of AIDS. And, I did it with one of the guys, we did the scenes together. And, when he first did it, it shocked me back 30 years. I mean, literally, "Whoa!" Straight back.

Val: And, I look back on it. It cost me dearly. It was a very emotional job. I wore myself out on many occasions. I did a lot of overtime. I look back on it and think, "It was the best thing I ever did. For myself, it was my greatest achievement." It was something I can look back on and say, "I did that. I was there. When nobody else was there, I was there."

Val: And, for what I achieve for those young men, mostly I couldn't save their lives but, I did make a difference. I did help.

Evelyn: And, it's so important when a young man is at end of life, because of that. The actual care that they get that sees them through is absolutely of immeasurable value.

Val: Yeah.

Evelyn: That's been an amazing achievement.

Val: Yes.

Evelyn: But, as you said, it must've cost you dearly.

Val: It did.

Evelyn: In terms, not only the physical things, but in terms of emotional, watching so many young men pass away.

Val: Yes, because of my own personal patients that I looked after, 127 of them died in the 10 years or so that I did that job. But now, there are the long term survivors. I have one friend ... Actually, I've just gained another friend, who have both had AIDS diagnosis for about 25 years.

Val: The long term survivors are here. And, it's so wonderful to see them. At long last, we've come through all that darkness. And, there are people out there, people who are living for 25, 30 years. And, that's how it's going to be. That's the difference.

Evelyn: And, the difference has been achieved through all of that education work.

Val: Everything that we did back then. And, it wasn't just the medical people. It was other people. Places like the Terrence Higgins Trust. All these young men banded together to help to support.

Val: I had volunteers, the Terrence Higgins Trust buddy system would do volunteers. And, they would come to people's homes. And, they would do all sorts of things. So, it wasn't just the medical stuff. It was volunteers as well. It brought the whole community together.

Evelyn: And, the helplines.

Val: Oh! The helplines. Yes.

Evelyn: Wonderful. And so, thinking of that little Val, finally back in the day, getting married and all of those things. Looking back, what would you say to her?

Val: To Val then, "You should've come out earlier." I think, yes. I should've looked at my auntie Ethel more ... sooner.

Evelyn: You should have. That's fantastic. Well, it's been a real privilege to hear your story, and hear about your work.

Val: Thank you.

Evelyn: Thank you so much, Val. Thank you.

Val: You're welcomed. Thank you.