

**CWM Audio 74-2**  
**Antoinette Concello Interview, September 1978**  
**Part 2**

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Antoinette C.: 00:02 Nice way, wouldn't you?

Tom Parkinson: 00:02 Sure.

Antoinette C.: 00:04 Well, I would too.

Tom Parkinson: 00:04 In the years that you've been with the circus, there have been some really great-

Antoinette C.: 00:07 Changes.

Tom Parkinson: 00:08 People. And changes, yes, but great people. And-

Antoinette C.: 00:08 Yes.

Tom Parkinson: 00:11 Many of them were great performers, and many of them were great friends.

Antoinette C.: 00:15 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 00:15 And I'm wondering, if you could recall some of those that you, uh, think most highly of, uh, as performers? Now, they might be fliers or they might be in some other field.

Antoinette C.: 00:26 Well.

Tom Parkinson: 00:26 And they may not be the biggest names. It, it just might be the people that you had the greatest-

Antoinette C.: 00:32 Oh. A lot of people that I've been very fond of over the years, but, I think Con Colleano.

Tom Parkinson: 00:32 Yeah?

Antoinette C.: 00:39 To me, was very outstanding. He was one of the all-time greats.

Tom Parkinson: 00:43 Yes. I recall.

Antoinette C.: 00:44 Alfredo Codona was an all-time great.

Tom Parkinson: 00:47 You were with him a while on the Ringling show.

Antoinette C.: 00:49 Yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Tom Parkinson: 00:49 You must have known him professionally, otherwise.

Antoinette C.: 00:52 I knew him quite well, but I didn't know him as well as I know his brother, Lalo.

Tom Parkinson: 00:52 Uh-huh (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 00:54 Lalo was a great person, really.

Tom Parkinson: 00:58 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 00:59 Very warm hearted, kind. Not a bit of jealousy in him. He used to ... You know, like, we were afraid that the birth of the boy in the garden. He was going on two and a half and nobody knew what was the matter. And he'd come up and pat my knees, like this, with [inaudible 00:01:14] and say, "Be a good one tonight".

Tom Parkinson: 00:59 Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Antoinette C.: 01:19 You know? But, just gave you that kind of a confidence that ... He was a great person, I think.

Tom Parkinson: 01:22 Good. You know, that's good.

Antoinette C.: 01:24 Uh, Albert Powell.

Tom Parkinson: 01:26 Oh yeah.

Antoinette C.: 01:28 Uh, Ira Millette.

Tom Parkinson: 01:28 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Great names. All of them.

Antoinette C.: 01:36 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Little [Kaichi Cobin 00:01:34]. Walked upstairs on his head.

Tom Parkinson: 01:36 Yes. Yes.

Antoinette C.: 01:36 Mm-hmm (affirmative) .

Tom Parkinson: 01:36 I know the act. I don't know the name. But, um-

Antoinette C.: 01:36 Little Kaichi.

Tom Parkinson: 01:37 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 01:37 He still sends us Christmas cards from Europe.

Tom Parkinson: 01:37 Oh.

Antoinette C.: 01:37 And I'd say, "Save your money, Kaichi". Always getting [inaudible 00:01:48] to bring us little presents. I say, "Kaichi, save your money". He'd say, "Don't you worry about Kaichi".

Tom Parkinson: 01:37 Yeah.

Antoinette C.: 01:54 He was a good player.

Tom Parkinson: 01:54 Good.

Antoinette C.: 01:56 And ...

Tom Parkinson: 01:56 You mentioned going ... Go ahead.

Antoinette C.: 01:56 The [Juanos 00:01:58].

Tom Parkinson: 01:56 Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Antoinette C.: 02:00 Were a great ... The [Okombi 00:02:01] Troupe. Great bunch of people. Great.

Tom Parkinson: 02:10 Like, [Teeter Borne 00:02:10].

Antoinette C.: 02:10 Yep. The original [Magia 00:02:10] Troupe.

Tom Parkinson: 02:11 Mm-hmm (affirmative). You were quite a celebrity yourself, of course, you endorsed Camel cigarettes, and you were-

Antoinette C.: 02:11 Well, okay.

Tom Parkinson: 02:14 ... mentioned in a lot of books, and-

Antoinette C.: 02:15 You don't include yourself, but you're ... (laughs)-

Tom Parkinson: 02:17 No, no.

Antoinette C.: 02:18 ... I'd like other people, but [crosstalk 00:02:19], I hate tooting my own horn. I don't know why, I get embarrassed.

Tom Parkinson: 02:23 Well, it's uh-

Antoinette C.: 02:24 I do, I can't help it.

Tom Parkinson: 02:24 ... maybe, but you deserve the accolades that ...

Antoinette C.: 02:24 I feel like some of those people, like, you know, like [Cecil B. DeMille 00:02:27]-

Tom Parkinson: 02:24 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 02:27 ... I mean, he was a great man. He was one of the most humble men I've ever known.

Tom Parkinson: 02:27 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 02:27 [crosstalk 00:02:35].

Tom Parkinson: 02:35 Well, that's, uh, remarkable that that would ... the whole crew. It's all that-

Antoinette C.: 02:41 Yeah, we got to know him quite well.

Tom Parkinson: 02:43 Sure, you did. Did you enjoy the- the challenge that movies brought?

Antoinette C.: 02:46 Yeah, it was fun.

Tom Parkinson: 02:47 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 02:48 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Another person that I thought was great was, uh, neat, as a troupe, The Cristiani-

Tom Parkinson: 02:59 Uh- huh (affirmative)

Antoinette C.: 03:01 ... as a troupe, you couldn't beat 'em.

Tom Parkinson: 03:01 Why, there were lots of 'em.

Antoinette C.: 03:06 Yeah. But I mean their riding ... they rode bareback; they didn't have strings on or leashes and tie their horses together, and pad them; they rode bareback.

Tom Parkinson: 03:13 Right.

Antoinette C.: 03:13 And they rode, I mean they really did the ...

Tom Parkinson: 03:18 You must have enjoyed working with and for Pat Valdo a lot to-

Antoinette C.: 03:21 Oh, he was a great person.

Tom Parkinson: 03:22 Everybody loved Pat Valdo.

Antoinette C.: 03:27 Yeah. Very ... everybody missed him.

Tom Parkinson: 03:28 Well, that was a great set of people. Uh.

Antoinette C.: 03:31 Fred Bradna.

Tom Parkinson: 03:31 Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 03:32 Yep.

Tom Parkinson: 03:34 And then some of the people that would have been, uh, head of the [showoff 00:03:37], uh, Bev Kelley and Frank Braden and-

Antoinette C.: 03:37 Oh, Bev Kelly, one of my favorites.

Tom Parkinson: 03:40 Right. He was just in here a few months ago at, at My Fair Lady.

Antoinette C.: 03:44 Was he really? The last time that I saw him I was getting something to take up to the dressing room in Madison Square Garden and he walked up behind me, put his arm around me.

Tom Parkinson: 03:52 Oh, yeah. Well, that's Bev. He's a great guy.

Antoinette C.: 03:54 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 03:54 Yeah. He's, uh, I think he headquartered now in Saint Louis with his daughter, and he, he and his wife are there.

Antoinette C.: 04:00 Yes, he had a interior decorating shop there in [crosstalk 00:04:02].

Tom Parkinson: 04:01 Mm-hmm (affirmative), right. Right.

Tom Parkinson: 04:03 Yeah, and they've ... well, they lived in Philadelphia for quite awhile now he moved back to Saint Louis.

Antoinette C.: 04:03 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Antoinette C.: 04:13 I wonder if he ... well, if he wasn't there ... we just played Saint Louis [on our way here 00:04:13].

Tom Parkinson: 04:15 Well, he may be on the road with the show again now but, uh, he gets his mail through Saint Louis.

Antoinette C.: 04:15 Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Tom Parkinson: 04:20 And, uh, he went there. We played My Fair Lady last spring and he was the head of that. And he's a great agent. He, he always did a remarkable job of helping us with the show and, and it ... I'm sure he would have done the same thing for you with, uh, with the Ringling show.

Antoinette C.: 04:35 Oh, yeah. Very nice person.

Tom Parkinson: 04:39 Well, I've enjoyed talking with you, and I don't want to impose on your time-

Antoinette C.: 04:41 Well, there's another one, uh, the one they call the Daddy of All Press Agents.

Tom Parkinson: 04:44 Oh, Dexter Fellows.

Antoinette C.: 04:45 Dexter Fellows was a very fine person.

Tom Parkinson: 04:45 Mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative)

Antoinette C.: 04:47 I am very fond of him.

Tom Parkinson: 04:49 Sure, you would have known him.

Antoinette C.: 04:52 Yeah.

Tom Parkinson: 04:52 Did you know, uh, John Ringling was here around, at all, anywhere?

Antoinette C.: 04:56 Yes, he ... he was still in the audience the first opening night when I got to [Manhattan 00:05:04].

Tom Parkinson: 04:56 Oh, oh yeah.

Antoinette C.: 05:03 I remember I looked down there and I said- (laughing)

Tom Parkinson: 05:03 Oh, god.

Antoinette C.: 05:05 (laughing) scared the two men to death. But I didn't know him well, but I knew, uh, John Ringling North though.

Tom Parkinson: 05:05 Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Antoinette C.: 05:05 He and Buddy and I are very good friends.

Tom Parkinson: 05:16 Sure. And before that it would have been Sam-

Antoinette C.: 05:17 Sam Gumpertz.

Tom Parkinson: 05:17 Gumpertz.

Antoinette C.: 05:18 Yeah, mm-hmm (affirmative)

Tom Parkinson: 05:19 And, uh, at that ... and that's about that time that Art got into the business of selling lots of flying acts to the show, huh?

Antoinette C.: 05:25 Yeah, mm-hmm (affirmative) [crosstalk 00:05:26]

Tom Parkinson: 05:25 So you must have known him very well.

Antoinette C.: 05:26 Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Tom Parkinson: 05:28 Had a lot of contact with him, Gumpertz.

Antoinette C.: 05:28 Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Tom Parkinson: 05:32 And he had acts on Hagenbeck-Wallace and so on.

Tom Parkinson: 05:37 Um, well I've met a lot of great people that have been with all those shows.

Antoinette C.: 05:43 Tootsie. The juggler Tootsie.

Tom Parkinson: 05:43 Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Antoinette C.: 05:44 Great personality.

Tom Parkinson: 05:45 Well, you would have had a lot of contact also, as you said, with John Ringling North and with, uh, with Buddy. And uh-

Antoinette C.: 05:52 Yeah, they'll be up, I think, in Chicago there.

Tom Parkinson: 05:54 Oh, they will?

Antoinette C.: 05:54 I have-

Antoinette C.: 05:55 Yeah, I think they're coming over this year. They usually go, go up through the [winter 00:05:59] and-

Tom Parkinson: 05:59 Mm- hmm (affirmative). Well, that's great.

Tom Parkinson: 06:04 Uh, Buddy gets back more often, I guess, than John. Uh, I've known that, uh, I've known that he was back from time to time.

Antoinette C.: 06:04 Yeah, mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah he comes to [collect 00:06:09].

Tom Parkinson: 06:04 Yeah (laughing). Okay.

Antoinette C.: 06:13 Well, it's been nice to visit with you-

Tom Parkinson: 06:13 Well, it was certainly nice to visit with you again.

Antoinette C.: 06:13 -reminiscing, huh?

Tom Parkinson: 06:14 Yeah, right, thanks a lot!