

Pressing (Mimosa 5, steam iron version) Interview Transcript

This has been transcribed from an audio interview exactly as it was voiced.

[Noise of sewing machine]

I'm making flux for one of the check jobs here because I'm a pocket maker. I'm a finisher too, so I finish the jacket by hand. I do the button hole.

And I do full time now because I'm qualified for both.

[Noise of sewing machine]

I've been doing pocket for nine years now, and 20 years finishing, since I came to this country.

I was like 23. Actually, [laughs] it was a Greek tailor. I worked for him, he was just next door where I used to live and I, erm, went and did some finishing for him.

He liked the job and I came later, asked for job in Savile Row.

So that's how the journey started.

[Albanian traditional music begins]

I grew up in a small city in Albania called Peshkopi.

It is a beautiful city. They called it Apple, Apple City and, erm, I was good at home with some embroidery and crochet and things.

I quite liked it when I was young.

In our country I was engaged and you prepare the stuff when you get married. That's how it works it over there.

So I used to do my bed sheets by hand, embroidery, with flowers and things.

I used to do a lot of them, quite a lot, for myself.

I quite enjoyed it actually, was such a lovely thing to do.

But now I haven't done it, it's been a long time ago.

I got married and moved here with my husband and I created my family here.

Three kids; two girls and a boy.

So when the kids were small, I used to take the work home and raise the kids and earn the money [laughs] and earn the living.

London is my second home I think.

Whenever I go back to Albania, I'm happy to come back here. I love going and seeing my family, but I feel like home is here for me because I brought up my kids and I came very young so.

[Sewing machine sounds continue]