



ROBIN MILLING INTERVIEWS KEITH CARRADINE AT OPENING NIGHT OF *MINDGAME* AT THE SOHOPLAYHOUSE

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Q: What was most challenging about this role?

A: The fact that I'm an American playing an Englishman and getting the accent right, I will no doubt be taken to task. Also I am on stage for the entire show and it's a very physical part on this tiny stage but that's what I love about it. I'm glad I got the opportunity to play this type of character and with Ken Russell directing what happens on stage is so cinematic.

Q: Did you have a safety signal with the actress Kathleen McNenny who gets tied up and suffocated with a plastic bag?

A: As the English would say Kathleen is a real goer. We discussed that during rehearsal if she wanted anything on her arms when the tape is being wrapped around her. She was fine with it because it doesn't really stick to her skin because it's plastic but who knows in a month's time she might change her mind!

Q: You made your Broadway debut in *Hair*. What do you remember from that experience?

A: It was at the Biltmore theater in 1969. I played Claude. That show was an incredible moment in time. The music for that show still holds up. It's one of the great scores ever written. It was so dynamically connected to the era, to the times that we were living with drugs and the Vietnam war. That show changed people's minds and if you could be part of something that actually has that affect on people it's really exhilarating. It was a very heady way for a young actor to begin a life in the theater. We were all getting high (on marijuana) but that was part of what was going on then. It wasn't particularly professional but somehow it worked in that context and most of the time it didn't interfere with the show. It was such a terrific experience. That's one of the reasons I'm here in this play is because Michael Butler who produced *Hair* is one of our producers (of *Mindgame*). Michael thought of me for the role so it was really *Hair* that led me to do this play.

Q: What adventures have you had living in New York?

A: I had a very dramatic thing happen to me and I don't want to repeat that experience but it was classic. I was in the subway station. I had got on the wrong train and I had to switch trains so I was sitting on a subway train waiting for the right train to come. It was taking so long and I was worried about being late for work and in classic New York fashion I got distracted, plus I was in the middle of learning this play (*Mindgame*) and it's a huge part. I was very much in it. I had my nose in my script every waking moment. That's what I was doing and when the train came I just jumped on it. I turned around and there was my bag sitting on the bench and the doors closed. Through the closed doors I saw my bag sitting there and thought that was the last time I'd see that. Miles, the guy who found my bag recognized my name and said, 'you're Kung Fu's brother!' He and his mom will be coming to the show.

Q: How do you feel being referred to as Kung Fu's brother?

A: Well that's the power of television isn't it? That was an iconic television show and it was a worldwide success and my brother (David Carradine) is still known all over the world as Kwai Chang Cain. The younger generation might not be as familiar but the kind of penetration that show has and had even then, I expect that. More often than that it's the way people relate to me as David's brother.

Q: You're coming upon your 60th birthday August 8th.

A: I'm looking forward to whatever comes next. It's just a number. I don't attach any meaning to a number. It has nothing to do with how one feels. We're as old as we feel. I feel great and I'm doing all the things that I've wanted to do.

