**The Monarchy in the UK**

*Mythes et héros / Lieux et formes de pouvoir*

*(Source: an interview with Kester Lovelac by Shelly De Vito)*

Shelly: What as a British ex-pat do you feel about the royal monarchy?

Kester: We’re not the only country in the world to have held on to a monarchy, but the ceremonial part and the symbolic part reflects people’s need for a figurehead, for this almost supernatural idea of someone looking over them and also, the whole fantasy idea that kings and queens and princes and princesses… I mean, let’s face it, you know, every child grows up reading fairy stories, or stories of princes and princesses, kings and queens, and there’s good ones and there’s bad ones. When Diana came along in the UK, all of a sudden there was this fairy tale princess: tall, and long legs and blonde, and whatever, and you know, she married the prince, and people were absolutely wild about because she represented this ideal. When you look back on her life, well, the opinion is divided. Some people considered her to be this absolute goddess, who did so much good, also her charity work and was…was a compassionate being. Actually, when you look at it, you know, she led her life with…where her personal life was an absolute disaster, and…and of course her family rejected her, you know, she…when she died, she wasn’t part of the Royal Family, and there was a whole debate about whether she should have a state funeral and this, that and the other.

