

About this script

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关于台词的备注:

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

English Eccentrics: The Sad Joker 悲伤的小丑

William: Unconventional, oddball, peculiar ...

Li: 我的感觉是自古至今的英国怪人还挺多不少的, eccentric !

William: Yes, and none more so than the subject of today's programme, Vivian Stanshall. He was an artist, a poet, a musician, a playwright and a prankster.

Li: A prankster - 爱开玩笑的人, 恶作剧的人。

William: He described himself as a jester.

Li: A jester – 爱开玩笑的人; 小丑。有意思, 那他到底是个什么样的英国怪人呢? English Eccentric!

William: My name is William Kremer.

Li: 我是杨莉, 大家好。Vivian Stanshall 出生于 1943 年, 他的父亲是一家公司的老板, 他先是从一所艺术学校毕业, 然后创建了自己的乐队, The Bonzo Dog Dada Band 后来改名为 The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.

William: The band played jazz and pop music inspired by the 1920s, often with silly lyrics. One of the members of The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band was Neil Innes.

Li: 下面我们一起来听一段录音, 是 Neil Innes 在 BBC 广播四台的《伟大人物》节目中接受主持人 Matthew Parris 的采访, 回忆他初次见到 Vivian Stanshall 的情景。下面的这段录音比较难懂, 请你注意听 Stanshall's face, 也就是他的脸有什么不同寻常的地方。

Insert

Matthew Parris: *Describe your first meeting with him.*

Neil Innes: *Well I was at Goldsmiths Art School. And he came to a pub on the corner, a big Irish pub, The New Cross Arms. And he was slightly plump in those days and he had Billy Bunter check trousers, a Victorian frock coat, he had violet oval pince-nez glasses and carried a euphonium under his arm. But to top it all off, he had these enormous pink rubber false ears.*

- William:** Did you hear? Stanshall was wearing enormous pink rubber false ears
- Li:** False ears – 假耳朵。他穿着一条格子花布的裤子 check trousers, a Victorian frock coat 维多利亚时代男子礼服大衣, pince-nez glasses 老式无腿眼睛。
- William:** That's a very strange way to dress to go to the pub! Let's hear a bit more from Neil Innes. You will hear him use two very common English phrases to describe Vivian Stanshall.

Insert

Neil Innes: He would have travelled all the way from where he came from dressed like that. I mean Viv had a wonderful sense of humour.

Matthew Parris: Did he ever get beaten up on the underground?

Neil Innes: No, no. I mean there's something about Viv that was you know larger than life and he always got away with murder.

Li: Neil 在形容 Vivian 的时候说他是不同凡响的人 larger than life – 这个短语用来形容一个人很有意思而且充满活力。

William: Yes, Neil Innes also said "He always got away with murder". Vivian Stanshall didn't kill anyone! But if you get away with murder that means that people allow you to do outrageous things.

Insert

Neil Innes: There's something about Viv that was you know larger than life and he always got away with murder.

William: The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band became a success.

Li: 1968 年, 他们的成名作是同著名歌星保罗·麦卡尼联手制作的 'I'm the urban spaceman', 一曲水管独奏曲, 非常轰动, 大获成功!

William: In 1970, the band split up. Vivian released some solo records and went on to develop a comic character called Sir Henry Rawlinson.

Li: 不过 Vivian Stanshall 是个心事重重的人, 下面是他的第二个妻子 Ki Longfellow 的回忆。What was it that Vivian regretted?

Insert

Ki: Vivian regretted not being a painter his entire life; the last time, one of the last times I ever saw him he was weeping at his failure.

Matthew Parris: Was that regret right? I mean, could he have been a great painter?

Ki: *Yeah. I do think so.*

Neil Innes: *I think so too.... there's also the kind of occupational hazard of being a kind of clown, and everybody sort of... you know the depression is there, it's part of it. But what you have to weigh up is the inspired comedy and mirth that he managed to sort of infect us all with, you know. You can't take that away.*

William: Ki said that Vivian regretted not becoming a painter. Although he was a successful musician, that wasn't the success that Vivian wanted. He felt he was a failure. Vivian Stanshall died in 1995 in a tragic house fire.

Before we finish – let's just test your memory. Can you remember the two phrases that Neil Innes used to describe Vivian Stanshall?

Insert

Neil Innes: *There's something about Viv that was you know larger than life and he always got away with murder.*

William: Do join us again next week for another English Eccentric!

Li: Bye.

William: Bye!