

0416 | (Part 1) Phil Wang ' s jokes are seriously funny

菲尔·王正经地搞笑

The **subtly** daring comedian is *having a moment*

这位大胆得恰到好处的喜剧演员风头正劲



DURING HIS *stand-up set* at the London Palladium, Phil Wang explored his mixed heritage—his mother is British, his father is Chinese-Malaysian—his love of unusual **delicacies** and his enthusiasm for male **contraception**. He closed with some advice for these **fractious** and sensitive times: in particular, on how to **gauge** “whether or not it is morally acceptable to do another person’s accent”.

在伦敦帕拉丁剧院（London Palladium）的单口喜剧表演中，菲尔·王（Phil Wang）探讨了她的混血血统——母亲是英国人，父亲是马来西亚华人，还有他对稀奇古怪的美食的热爱，对男性避孕的热衷。在结尾，他给这个易怒又敏感的时代提出了一些建议，尤其是如何判断“模仿别人的口音在道德上是否可接受”。

First and foremost, he argued, the speaker must put in the time and effort to make the **impression** convincing. Beyond that, any country that has had an **empire**—or was *on the “naughty” side* in the second world war—is **fair game**. This “gets you more accents than you think”: as well as many European ones, Chinese, Egyptian, Japanese, Russian and Turkish are **permissible**. Just the thought of such **impersonations** makes his left-leaning white friends **queasy**, he **confided**. Yet given their country’s **vaulting** ambitions, for the Chinese, at least, such **neuroses** are **trivial**, he insisted. After all, “the eagle does not concern itself with the impressions of the worm.”

他认为，首要的一点是模仿者得花点时间和精力让自己的表演逼真。除此之外，任何曾经建立过帝国的国家——或是二战中站在“作恶”一边的国家——都是可以开玩笑的对象。“你都想不到这给了你多少可以模仿的口音”：除了许多欧洲国家的口音外，中国的、埃及的、日本的、俄罗斯的、土耳其的都可以。他透露，他的左倾白人朋友们光是想到这样的模仿都如坐针毡。不过考虑到中国的

凌云壮志，他坚信至少对中国人来说，这样的神经敏感不值一提。毕竟，“雄鹰才不关心虫子怪模怪样地模仿自己呢”。

Mr Wang is one of Britain's sharpest and most surprising stand-up comedians, widely known for his observations on race and the **legacy** of **colonialism**. The set he performed at the Palladium and elsewhere on his recent tour, called "Philly Philly Wang Wang", was released on Netflix last year; he **embarks** on his first American tour, with fresh material, this month. His new **memoir**, "**Sidesplitter**: How To Be From Two Worlds At Once", includes **incisive** essays on language, cultural **assimilation** and dating. Meanwhile "BudPod", a **podcast** co-hosted with Pierre Novellie, a fellow comedian, has exceeded 2m downloads since its debut in 2019.

菲尔是英国最尖锐、最让人惊讶的单口喜剧演员之一，以对种族和殖民主义遗留问题的观察闻名。他近年在帕拉丁剧院等地名为“我就自恋”(Philly Philly Wang Wang)的巡演去年在奈飞上架；本月，他带着新鲜的素材开始了第一次美国巡演。他的新回忆录《笑到裂开：如何同时来自两个世界》(Sidesplitter: How To Be From Two Worlds At Once)汇集了关于语言、文化同化和约会的犀利文章。此外，他和喜剧演员皮埃尔·诺维利(Pierre Novellie)共同主持的播客“BudPod”在2019年首次推出，迄今下载量已超过200万次。

His life and career are an accident of history both grand and **intimate**. Britain controlled parts of the Malay peninsula between the 18th and mid-20th centuries; it was **exerting** a softer kind of power by the time Mr Wang's mother, an **anthropologist**, joined the Voluntary Service Overseas. She was posted to northern Borneo where she met Mr Wang's father, a martial-arts teacher. The comedian was born in 1990 in Stoke-on-Trent in central England, but his family returned to Malaysia soon afterwards. In his book he **interweaves** their story with that of Kota Kinabalu, the city in which he grew up, and his attitude towards his own identity. "For an enterprise so heavily associated with death," he writes, "I **ironically** owe the British Empire my life."

他的人生和事业是历史的偶然——既有大历史也有个人际遇。英国在18世纪到20世纪中期控制着马来半岛的部分地区；到了菲尔的母亲——一位人类学家——加入海外志愿服务(Voluntary Service Overseas)时，它开始施加一种更“软”的影响力。她被派往婆罗洲北部，在那里遇到了菲尔的父亲，一位武术教师。1990年，在英格兰中部的斯托克城(Stoke-on-Trent)，菲尔出生了。但他们全家很快就回到了马来西亚。在书中，他家人的故事、他长大的城市哥打基纳巴卢(Kota Kinabalu)的故事，还有他对自己身份的态度交织在一起。“大英帝国这份伟业不知葬送了多少条生命，”他写道，“我这条命却全拜它所赐，讽刺啊。”

He acknowledges *a debt to British comedy*, too. From a young age he watched shows like "Blackadder" and "French and Saunders" (while admiring Harith Iskander, the "godfather of stand-up comedy in Malaysia"). Comedy was a safe **haven** during tough years at a Chinese School, where there was a "constant threat of physical pain" from **corporal** punishment. This period shaped his career in another way. "I became really **introverted** and quite afraid of speaking out," he says, leaning back and closing his eyes, as if **recoiling** from the memory. "Then finding stand-up, it was this form of communication that I thought I could do. I felt I could earn the right to speak by writing something funny."

他承认自己还欠英国喜剧一份情。年幼时他看《黑爵士》(Blackadder)和《弗兰奇与桑德斯》(French and Saunders)这样的节目(同时也仰慕哈里斯·伊斯坎德[Harith Iskander]这位“马来西亚脱口秀教父”)。在中文学校的日子很不好过，“时时刻刻都在害怕受体罚的皮肉之苦”，喜剧成了他的避风港。这段时光还以另一种方式塑造了他的事业。“我变得非常内向，特别害怕开口说话。”他说着，身体后倾，闭上眼睛，仿佛往事不堪回首。“后来我找到了单口喜剧，觉得这种交流

方式我还应付得来。我觉得我可以写一些有意思的东西，靠这个争取开口说话的权利。”

(注：翻译来源：官网)

Notes

- **subtly** /'sʌtli/

adv. 敏锐地；精细地；巧妙地

习惯用语：

Their attitude to me altered subtly.

他们对我的态度已隐隐约约地有所改变。

- **delicacy** /'delɪkəsi/

n. 精致，精美；娇嫩；精美的食物；棘手；微妙；对...感到棘手

习惯用语：

delicacies 佳肴

delicacy management 精细化管理

local delicacy 当地特色菜肴；地方风味小吃；

assorted vegetarian delicacies 素什锦

Chinese-style delicacies 中式美食

exotic delicacy 异国美食

We admired the delicacy of the craftsmanship.

我们佩服工艺师精巧的手艺。

Caviar is a delicacy, but few children fancy it.

鱼子酱是一种精美的食品，但只有很少孩子喜欢它。

- **contraception** /kɒntrə'sepʃ(ə)n/

n. [医]避孕

习惯用语：

contraception methods / measures 避孕措施

post-abortion contraception 流产后的避孕

postcoital contraception 紧急避孕；事后避孕

instrumental contraception 器具避孕

Many religious groups praised the contraception decision.

不少宗教团体对最高法院此次的避孕福利决定都持赞扬态度。

A woman is counseled with her husband and offered free contraception.

一位妇女要问过其丈夫，然后获取免费提供的避孕药。

- **fractious** /'frækʃəs/

adj. 易怒的,急躁的

近义词:

[adj.] disobedient, ill-natured

反义词:

[n.] obedient, good-natured, easy

习惯用语:

bad-tempered fractious 脾气不好的

a fractious animal 易怒的动物

be fractious about 对...愤怒

a fractious horse 一匹难驾驭的马

King Malcolm struggled to unite his fractious kingdom.

马尔科姆国王竭力要把他那难以控制的王国统一起来。

- **gauge** /geɪdʒ/

n. 厚度, 直径; 测量仪表; 规格, 尺度

vt. 计量, 度量; **估计, 判断**

习惯用语:

pressure gauge 压力计, 测压表

How would you gauge his conduct?

你对他的品行作何评价?

- **empire** /'empaɪə/

n. 帝国; 帝王统治, 君权

习惯用语:

empire state building 帝国大厦 (位于美国纽约州)

byzantine empire 拜占庭帝国 (即东罗马帝国, 395 ~ 1453, 在欧洲东南部和亚洲西南部, 由罗马帝国分裂而成)

When did the empire begin to wane?

那个帝国何时开始衰落的?

The ancient Romans extended their empire into Asia.

古罗马人把罗马帝国扩张到亚洲境内。

- **fair game**

n. 可开玩笑 (或嘲弄、作弄) 的对象 (不可数)

相似短语:

play fair the game 规规矩矩地比赛 光明正大地行动, 办事公允

to be fair 公平地说; 公平的; 说句公道话; 能够公平

fair's fair 彼此都要讲公道

for fair 完全地,肯定无疑地

day after the fair 为时过晚

fair and softly 慢点,别急,郑重点

fair daylight 白天,白昼

a fair play 公平比赛,公平条件

a fair field 公平的比赛,公平竞争; 公平的机会

- **permissible** /pə'mɪsɪb(ə)l/

adj. 可允许的, 许可的

近义词:

[adj.] admissible

反义词:

[n.] impermissible, inadmissible

习惯用语:

permissible error 允许误差

permissible value 容许值, 允许值

permissible discharge 容许排放

Is smoking permissible in the theatre?

在剧院里允许吸烟吗?

- **impersonate** /ɪm'pɜ:s(ə)neɪt/

vt. 扮演; 模仿, 假冒

习惯用语:

Impersonate Stars 明星模仿秀

role impersonate 角色冒充

falsely impersonate 假冒身份

He impersonates all the well-known politicians exactly right.

他模仿所有有名的政治家达到维妙维肖的地步。

- **queasy** /'kwi:zi/

adj. 呕吐的; 不稳定的; 催吐的

习惯用语:

queasy roily 动荡的

I felt a little queasy on the ship.

我在船上觉得有点晕眩想呕吐。

- **impression** /ɪm'preʃ(ə)n/

n. 印象, 感想; 想法, 看法, 感觉; 滑稽模仿; 印记, 压痕; 重印

近义辨析:

idea: 最普通常用词, 几乎适用于任何方面的思维活动。

concept: 指从众多实例中通过概括、归纳而形成的对事物本质、全貌及其内部联系的概念或看法。通常指个人或一些人所持有的具体概念或念头, 也可指概念的形成过程, 含一定的想象和感情色彩意味。

thought: 指以推理、思考等智力活动为基础的心理思维活动及其结果。

notion: 指的是一种模糊的, 变化的莫测的想法, 无可靠的基础, 未经深思熟虑的观点。

impression: 指外部刺激在思想中所产生的印象。

习惯用语:

impression of 有...样的印象; 对...的印象

impression on 对...的印象

first impression 第一印象

false impression 错觉; 虚假印象

make an impression 让人眼前一亮; 给人留下...的印象

Granny has clear impressions of her childhood.

奶奶对自己的童年还记得清清楚楚。

• confide /kən'faɪd/

vt. 吐露; 委托

vi. 信赖; 吐露秘密

近义辨析:

believe: 普通用词, 常表示一种缓和、不太肯定的口气。

trust: 指绝对相信或信赖某人。

confide: 侧重忠诚可靠与可信赖。

rely: 指在相信的基础上可进一步依靠, 着重可靠性。

习惯用语:

confide in 信任, 信赖; 向...吐露秘密

He confided his troubles to a friend.

他向朋友倾诉烦恼事。

There is no one here I can confide in.

这里没有一个我可以信赖的人。

• vaulting /'vɔ:ltɪŋ/

adj. 夸大的; 跳跃的

n. 拱顶结构; 跳跃

v. 给...盖以拱顶; 作成穹形; 跳跃 (vault的ing形式)

习惯用语:

vaulting horse (练习跳跃用的) 鞍马

pole vaulting 撑竿跳高; 撑杆跳

vaulting ambition 奢望

I took to pole-vaulting right away.

我马上就掌握了撑杆跳的技能。

- **neurosis** /ˌnjʊə'reʊsɪs/

n. 神经症；神经衰弱症

近义词：

[n.] mental disorder, mental disturbance, psychological disorder

习惯用语：

anxiety neurosis 焦虑性神经机能病

She always projects her own neuroses onto her colleagues.

她总是将自己的神经病投射到她的同事身上。

- **trivial** /'trɪvɪəl/

adj. 不重要的，琐碎的；琐细的

习惯用语：

trivial matters 无关重要的事情

A trivial misunderstanding caused a breach between them.

小小的误会引起了他们之间的不和。

He often dissipated his energies in trivial matters.

他常在无关紧要的小事上浪费精力。

- **legacy** /'legəsi/

n. 遗产，遗赠物；遗留之物

近义词：

[n.] gift, inheritance, heritage

习惯用语：

legacy system 遗留系统

He's gambled away all his father's legacy.

他把他父亲的遗产全赌光了。

He thinks the legacy is a gift from the Gods.

他认为这笔遗产是天赐之物。

- **colonialism** /kə'ləʊniəlɪz(ə)m/

n. 殖民主义，殖民政策

习惯用语：

post colonialism 后殖民主义

new colonialism 新殖民主义

anti colonialism 反殖民主义

The town grew under the influence of colonialism.

这个镇是在殖民主义的影响下发展起来的。

• **embark** /ɪm'ba:k/

vi. 上船或飞机; 从事, 着手

vt. 使上船; 使从事

近义词:

[v.] board, get on, get down, begin, get, start out, start

反义词:

[n.] debark, set down

习惯用语:

embark on 从事, 着手; 登上船

He embarked for America on the steamer.

他乘那艘轮船去美国。

We embarked at Liverpool for New York.

我们在利物浦上船前往纽约。

• **memoir** /'memwa:/

n. 自传; 实录; 回忆录; 研究报告

近义词:

[n.] autobiography, essay

习惯用语:

Memoirs of a Geisha 艺伎回忆录 (书名)

Childhood Memoir 童年回忆录

geological memoir 地质报告

He published his memoirs on the Second World War.

他出版了他的第二次世界大战回忆录。

I watched a trailer for the screenplay of his memoirs.

我看过以他的回忆录改编成电影的预告片。

• **sidesplitter** /'saɪd,splitə/

n. 令人捧腹的笑话(或事情), 极滑稽的故事

• **incisive** /ɪn'saɪsɪv/

adj. 敏锐的; 深刻的; 锋利的

习惯用语:

incisive criticism 犀利的批评

His presentation was clear and incisive.

他的报告清晰而犀利。

• **assimilation** /ə,sɪmɪ'leɪʃən/

n. (食物等的)吸收; 消化; (被)吸收或同化的过程

习惯用语:

cultural assimilation 文化训练

nitrogen assimilation 氮同化; 氮素同化; 氮素同化作用

The article expounds the sample decomposition and the method of the sample preparation by applying the method of atomical assimilation spectrum, and lists some specific analytical of metallurgy.

本文对应用原子吸收光谱法分析冶金样品过程中的试样分解和分析样品的制备方法进行了较详细的阐述,并列举了几种基体合金的具体分析方法。

- **podcast** /pɒd'kɑst/

n. 播客

习惯用语:

What's your favorite podcast right now?

你最喜欢的播客是哪个?

- **intimate** /'ɪntɪmət/

adj. 亲密的; 私人的; 精通的; [婉]有性关系的

n. 至交; 知己

vt. 暗示; 通知; 宣布

习惯用语:

intimate relationship 亲密的关系

intimate friend 知交, 知己

intimate contact 亲密接触

I have long been intimate with him.

我和他相识已久。

- **exert** /ɪg'zɜ:t/

vt. 运用, 发挥; 施以影响

习惯用语:

exert oneself 努力; 尽力

exert an influence on 对.....产生影响

For college students, to do a part-time job will exert a profound influence on their personality and life.

做兼职对大学生的个性培养和今后生活都具有深远的影响。

He never exerts himself to help anyone.

他从未尽力帮助别人。

- **anthropologist** /,ænθrə'pɒlədʒɪst/

n. 人类学者,人类学家

习惯用语:

Zora Neale Hurston is a great novelist, folklorist, and anthropologist in America.
佐拉·尼尔·赫斯顿是美国伟大的小说家,民俗家,人文学家。

- **interweave** /ɪntə'wi:v/

vt. 使(与...交织)

时态: interwove interwoven interweaving, interweaves

近义词:

[v.] twist, distort

习惯用语:

interweave with 与...混杂

They interwove the red and gold threads.

他们把红色线和金色线交织在一起。

Wordsworth's political ideas are often interwoven with his philosophical and religious beliefs.

华兹华斯的政治观点常与他的哲学和宗教信仰交织在一起。

- **ironically** /aɪ'ranɪkli/

adv. 嘲讽地, 挖苦地; 具有讽刺意味地

习惯用语:

ironically humorous 用反语表达幽默的

She smiled ironically.

她嘲讽地一笑。

But cautious incrementalism, ironically, risks letting the world slip ever further down the deflationary spiral.

但是讽刺的是, 我们现在要警惕渐进主义, 这种风险会把我们从紧缩循环带向更深的深渊。

- **haven** /'heɪv(ə)n/

n. 避难所, 安息所; 港口

vt. 为.....提供避难处; 安置.....于港中

时态: havened, havening, havens

近义词:

[n.] shelter, port

习惯用语:

safe haven 安全港; 容许幅度标准

tax haven 避税场所 (税率很低的国家或地区)

The library is a haven of peace and quiet.

图书馆是个平和而安静的去处。

- **corporal** /'kɔ:p(ə)r(ə)l/

adj. 肉体的, 身体的

n. 下士

近义词:

[adj.] physical

反义词:

[n.] mental

习惯用语:

corporal punishment 体罚; 肉刑

A private is subordinate to a corporal.

列兵的级别低于下士。

Nowadays, corporal punishment is banned in many schools.

现在许多学校禁止体罚。

• **introverted** /'ɪntrə(v)ɜ:tɪd/

adj. 内向的, 含蓄的, 闭关自守的

习惯用语:

introverted extroversion 张扬的内敛

introverted feeling 内倾情感型

introverted policy 闭关政策

introverted cheery 内向活泼

She was an introverted soul who cloaked herself in black.

她是个披着身黑色斗篷的内向的人。

• **recoil** /rɪ'kɔɪl/

vi. 畏缩, 退缩; 报应, 返回, 回报

n. (尤指枪炮的)反冲, 后坐力

习惯用语:

recoil from 畏缩, 后退

recoil force n. 反冲力; 坐后力

Anna recoiled in horror as the snake approached.

那条蛇逼上前来, 安娜吓得直往后退。