

0419 | (Part 2) Phil Wang 's jokes are seriously funny



Moving back to Britain in his teens , Mr Wang took part in his first comedy night at school . Most of the material was borrowed : “ I didn ’ t realise at the time you had to write your own jokes . ” He went on to Cambridge University , which had a **thriving** comedy scene , and became president of the Footlights , an **incubator** of entertainment greats including Eric Idle and Hugh Laurie . In 2010 he won the **prestigious** Chortle Student Comedy Awards . Steve Bennett , editor of Chortle , a comedy website , recalls his cool delivery , **self - deprecating** jokes and “ **intricate , detached** wordplay ” .

十几岁时，菲尔回到了英国，在学校参加了他的第一个喜剧之夜。大部分素材都是借鉴来的：“我当时还没意识到你得自己写笑话。”后来他入读有一个活跃的喜剧人圈子的剑桥大学，并成为脚灯社（Footlights）的主席，这个社团曾经培养出艾瑞克·爱都（Eric Idle）和休·劳瑞（Hugh Laurie）等娱乐界大腕。2010年，他获得了颇具盛名的Chortle学生喜剧奖。喜剧网站Chortle的编辑史蒂夫·班尼特（Steve Bennett）还记得他当时沉静的表演风格、自嘲的笑话和“错综复杂却又超然事外的文字梗”。

That **accolade** helped Mr Wang make comedy a full - time job . He has since appeared on **assorted** television and radio programmes and , alongside his stand - up **gigs** , performed with a **sketch** group called Daphne . He has encountered **bigots** as well as fans . In one painful passage in “ Sidesplitter ” , he describes how a woman in the audience once loudly announced that he was unattractive because of his ethnicity . The incident confirmed his comic vocation , he says , making him even surer “ that British society would benefit from an outspoken East Asian making jokes about himself from a place of authority ” .

这份荣誉帮助菲尔把喜剧变成了一份全职工作。自那之后，他开始出现在各种电视和广播节目中，除了表演单口喜剧，还参加了一个名为“月桂”（Daphne）的喜剧小品（sketch）团体的演出。他不光遇到过粉丝，也遇到过偏执狂。《笑到裂开》中有一段痛苦的讲述：一名女性观众大声说，他的种族身份让他毫无魅力可言。他说，这件事坚定了他做喜剧的决心，让他更加确信“一个直言

不诤的东亚人，在有分量的场合，拿自己开玩笑，会让英国社会受益”。

Mr Novellie , his collaborator on “ BudPod ”, likens Mr Wang ’ s ability to take on subjects such as race to that of American **counterparts** such as Dave Chapelle . As well as their joint interest in history , films , games and **scatological mishaps** , Mr Novellie - who was born in South Africa and brought up on the Isle of Man - suggests he and Mr Wang share an “ outside perspective ”. That means that when they discuss subjects like the Elgin Marbles , ancient Greek sculptures currently held in the British Museum , they are not constrained by the sense of national embarrassment that many of their liberal peers **exude** .

菲尔在 BudPod 节目的拍档诺维利把他在表达种族等问题上的能力和戴夫·查普尔（ Dave Chapelle ）等美国同行相提并论。南非出生、在马恩岛（ Isle of Man ）长大的诺维利认为，自己和菲尔除了同样对历史、电影、游戏和“屎尿屁”笑话感兴趣外，都有一种“旁观者视角”。当两人讨论一些话题时，比如现在收藏在大英博物馆的古希腊雕塑埃尔金大理石雕（ Elgin Marbles ），不会像很多自由主义的同行那样，因“家丑”的尴尬感而束手束脚。

For his part , Mr Wang denies that comedy has a political duty . He says he mostly **strives to** entertain , encourage listeners to take themselves less seriously and point out **jarring** truths - such as , in his bit about impressions , Chinese people being considered a “ very **vulnerable** minority ” in Britain while also being linked to a “ globally very powerful ” country . Yet , intentionally or otherwise , he is a subtle champion of **nuance** and balance .

菲尔自己则不认为喜剧负有政治义务。他说他的主要任务是努力娱乐大众，鼓励听众别太把自己当回事，并且指出一些不和谐的事实——比如他在讲述口音模仿的那段中提到，华裔在英国被认为是“非常脆弱的少数族裔”，同时却又和一个“在全球非常强大”的国家联系在一起。不过，无论有意无意，他在细微差别和平衡上都拿捏得恰到好处。

He uses the **set - ups** of jokes , and the sudden switch of a **punchline** , to **undermine** preconceptions about people and places . Perhaps , he says , the **gags** would come easier if he were more **polemical** . “ It ’ s much more funny to have a really strong opinion about something and scream about it , than it is to say : ‘ But let ’ s look at this from the other perspective ’ , ” he concedes . “ But I don ’ t . I can ’ t . ” ■

他用笑话的层层铺垫和突然切换笑点来打破对人和地方先入为主的观念。也许，他说，如果他更好辩，那些梗会更出效果。“对某件事有非常强烈的看法，然后把它大声嚷嚷出来，比说‘但让我们从另一个角度来看这件事’要有趣得多，”他承认，“但我不是这种。我做不到。”

（注：翻译来源：官网）

Notes

- **thriving** /'θraɪvɪŋ/

adj. 旺盛的；蒸蒸日上的；繁荣的

v. 兴旺（thrive的ing形式）

习惯用语：

thriving and prosperous 繁荣昌盛

Each bamboo house was surrounded by a thriving orchard.

每座竹楼周围都是茂密的果园。

- **incubator** /'ɪŋkjʊbeɪtə/

n. 孵化器(用于放置早产婴儿的)恒温箱

习惯用语:

The temperature of 42 neonates in the incubators was measured at their axillar,back,waist,buttock and rectum at the same time,then the results were compared.

对置暖箱中42例新生儿,在同一时间内进行腋温、背温、腰温、臀温、肛温测量,结果进行统计学分析。

- **prestigious** /pre'stɪdʒəs/

adj. 受尊敬的, 有声望的, 有威望的

近义词:

[adj.] reputable, influential

习惯用语:

prestigious university 名牌大学

Britain's most prestigious prize for contemporary art.

英国对当代艺术的最高奖励。

The young man graduated from a prestigious university.

这个年轻人毕业于一所名牌大学。

- **deprecate** /'deprɪkeɪt/

vt. 不赞成, 反对

近义词:

[v.] disapprove, reject

习惯用语:

vaunt deprecate 吹嘘

laud deprecate 称赞

He deprecates the value of children's television.

他贬低儿童电视节目的价值。

- **intricate** /'ɪntrɪkət/

adj. 错综复杂的

近义辨析:

complex: 侧重内在关系的复杂, 需通过仔细研究与了解才能掌握和运用。

complicated: 与complex的含义接近, 但语气更强, 着重极其复杂, 很难分析、分辨或解释。

sophisticated: 侧重指事物发展到或达到高级的程度所体现出的复杂。

intricate: 着重指错综复杂, 令人迷惑理解。

习惯用语:

intricate needlework 精致刺绣

intricate plot 剧情复杂

I have a novel with an intricate plot.

我有一本情节错综复杂的小说。

• **detached** /dɪ'tætʃt/

adj. 分离的, 分开的; 超然的

v. 分离

习惯用语:

be detached from 把...从...上卸下; 脱离...

detached house 独立式住宅; 独立式房子

detached garage n. 独立式车库

Men were detached to defend the pass.

已经派遣了人员去防守关隘。

The coupon is not valid if detached.

这折扣券撕下即无效。

• **accolade** /'ækələɪd/

n. 嘉奖; 赞许

习惯用语:

accolade arrangement 奖赏体系

Distinctions & Accolades 殊荣与荣誉

special accolades 特殊嘉奖

The Accolade 授予骑士称号; 荣誉称号授予仪式; 册封仪式

The report received accolades from the press.

这篇报道受到新闻界的赞扬。

• **assorted** /ə'sɔ:tɪd/

adj. 混杂的; 各种各样的; 组合的

v. 把...分等级; 把...归为一类 (assort的过去分词)

习惯用语:

assort with v. 相称; 与...协调

There's a bag of assorted sweets on the table.

桌子上有一袋什锦糖果。

He has always assorted with men of his age.

他总是与和他年令相仿的人交往。

- **gig** /gɪg/

v. 坐小快艇；乘轻便二轮马车；给...以记过处分；用鱼叉叉(鱼)

n. 现场演唱会；**现场喜剧表演**；（尤指临时的）工作；单马双轮轻便马车

- **sketch** /sketʃ/

n. 素描；略图；梗概

vt. 画素描或速写

vi. 画素描或速写

近义辨析：

draft: 用作动词时指按准确比例设计或打样；作名词时专指精确的草图或草案。

outline: 主要给出事物要点或轮廓，强调简化了的整体。

diagram: 侧重指用图形、图表等来说明。

plot: 可与draft和diagram换用，但侧重于表示具体的点、面、部分或目标，从而使相互关系以及和整体的关系得以明确。

sketch: 指用图、模型或语言描述来表示某一事物的整体情况。

blueprint: 主要指绘制蓝图或制定纲领或规划。这个词引申用来指详细而具体的行动计划。

习惯用语：

sketch map 示意图，草图

design sketch 设计图

sketch out v. 概略地叙述；草拟

sketch in 约略地补充

rough sketch 草图

pencil sketch 素描

Give me a sketch of your plan.

跟我谈谈你的计划梗概。

- **bigot** /'bɪɡət/

n. 抱偏见的人；执拗的人；心胸狭窄的人

习惯用语：

bigot donkey 顽固者

His words stamped him to be a bigot.

他讲的话表明他是个偏执的人。

- **counterpart** /'kaʊntəpɑ:t/

n. 与对方地位相当的人, 与另一方作用相当的物

近义词：

[n.] equivalent, duplication

习惯用语：

It has no counterpart in the world.

举世无双。

Her counterpart left in vain and vapidly.

对方索然无味，徒劳而去。

- **scatology** /skæ'tɒlədʒɪ/

n. 粪石学,(通过粪便诊断疾病的)粪便学

- **mishap** /'mɪʃæp/

n. 灾祸; 不幸事故; [古]晦气

近义词:

[n.] misfortune, bad luck

习惯用语:

firing mishaps 射击故障

mishap focus 主动对焦

medical mishaps 医疗事故

mining mishaps 热词矿难

They arrived at their destination without any mishaps.

他们毫无差错地到达了目的地。

I'm afraid your son had a slight mishap in the playground.

不好了, 你儿子在操场上出了点小意外。

- **exude** /ɪg'zju:d/

vt. 使渗出; 流出; 散发

vi. 渗出; 流出; 发散

习惯用语:

exude the fragrance 散发着清香

In conversation she exudes wit and self-assurance.

交谈中她流露出机智和自信。

The sun made him exude sweat.

烈日晒得他汗流浹背。

- **strive** /straɪv/

vi. 努力; 奋斗; 抗争

近义辨析:

attempt: 较正式用词, 侧重已经开始, 且希望完成, 但常隐含着不一定有预期的结果。

try: 普通用词, 可与attempt换用, 但强调努力或尝试, 后跟不定式表示努力或争取; 后跟动名词表示尝试。

endeavour: 正式用词, 指尽最大努力、认真地克服困难去做某事。

strive: 和endeavour一样, 表示付出巨大努力, 但strive侧重劳累与紧张, 而不强调努力的结果。

习惯用语:

strive for 争取, 奋斗

strive to develop 努力发展; 大力发展

strive after 奋斗; 争取

strive against 反抗

strive for freedom 力争自由

He strove for the glittering prizes of politics.

他力争在政界取得辉煌的成绩。

Strive for the best, prepare for the worst.

作最坏的打算, 争取最好的结果。

- **jarring** /'dʒɑ:riŋ/

adj. 刺耳的; **不和谐的**; 辗转的

n. 辗转声; 冲突; 震动

v. 震惊; 冲突; 发刺耳声 (jar的现在分词)

习惯用语:

jarring machine 震动机; 振动机; 冲击机; 翻译

Two of them had been jarring with each other.

他们中的两个人一直在争吵不休。

- **vulnerable** /'vʌln(ə)rəb(ə)l/

adj. 易受伤的, 脆弱的, 敏感的

习惯用语:

vulnerable people 弱势群体; 易受伤害的人

vulnerable point 弱点

vulnerable species 易危物种

vulnerable products 敏感产品

The company is in an economically vulnerable position.

该公司目前经济状况不稳定。

Migrant workers are vulnerable to exploitation.

流动工人易受剥削。

- **nuance** /'nju:ɑ:ns/

n. 细微差别

习惯用语:

diverse nuances 多样化的细微差别

distinctive nuance 层次清晰

Some language nuance is not interpretable.

某些语言中的微妙差异是不可翻译的。

A baby is sensitive to the slightest nuances in its mother's voice.

婴儿对母亲声音的最细小变化都很敏感。

- **punch line** ['pʌntʃlaɪn]

n.指一整段笑话中最后几句最能引人发笑的点睛之笔

习惯用语:

That might sound like the punchline to a political joke, but for the former American vice-president it is deadly serious.

这句话像是政治笑话的点睛之笔，但是对于这个美国前任副总理来说却是极其严肃的话题。

- **undermine** /ʌndə'maɪn/

vt. 在某物下挖洞或挖通道；侵蚀...的基础；暗中破坏；逐渐削弱

习惯用语:

undermined works 坑道

undermine communication 矿井通信

A mole can undermine the strongest rampart.

一只田鼠能毁坏最坚固的堡垒。

Badgers had undermined the foundations of the church.

獾在这座教堂的地基处打了洞。

- **gag** /gæg/

vt. 塞住...的口；钳制...的言论；使窒息

vi. 窒息；作呕；插科打诨

n. 塞口物；讨论终结；**箝制言论**

习惯用语:

We were all gagging for a burger.

我们巴望着吃汉堡包。

The robbers rammed the gag in her mouth.

强盗用力将堵嘴物塞进她口中。

- **polemical** /pə'lemɪkəl/

adj. 辩论法的, 辩论术的, 好辩的, 挑起争端的

习惯用语:

polemical skill 论辩技巧

polemical treatise 论战文集

polemical critical 好辩的

a polemical issue 有争议性的问题

The book is slightly technical, eminently readable, consistently shocking, occasionally hectoring and unapologetically polemical.

该书以“专业门槛低、可读性强、时刻吸引读者兴趣、彻底颠覆药业形象、语言咄咄逼人又击中要害”而颇具特色。

