Pantomimes 圣诞节上演的话剧

Look Behind You! 就在你身后!

In winter in Britain, many children and adults enjoy going to the theatre to watch a pantomime. Pantomimes are a very old form of entertainment, but the modern version is as popular as ever.

Pantomimes today originate from a type of light, popular, comedy play from 16th Century Italy. Some aspects of modern pantomime date from this time, for example having stock characters who appear in different stories.

Pantomimes started to be performed in England in the 17th Century, and it was here that the comedy developed into slapstick - a clownish, physical comedy characterised by people falling over or fighting in a silly way.

In the 19th Century, Grimaldi, a famous clown, introduced the tradition of audience participation, a very important aspect of modern pantomime. He established catch phrases, which the audience would respond to by shouting a known response.

There are two very well-known catch phrases in modern British pantomime. The first is that a character will pretend not to see his enemy and ask the audience where he is. The audience shout out ‘Look behind you!’ The second is where a character pretends to have an argument with the audience using phrases like ‘Oh yes I did’ and ‘Oh no you didn’t!’

Pantomimes are based on folk stories or fairy tales like Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk or Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. The performances often include songs or music.

There are two stock characters who feature in almost every pantomime. The first is the pantomime dame, an older woman such as an aunt, usually played by a man. She usually has an outrageous costume and a bawdy sense of humour.

In addition, there is often a male character played by a young woman, called the principal boy. This is usually the hero of the story. The fact that actors are playing roles of the wrong gender is part of the joke.

Often, celebrities from the world of TV or pop music take leading roles in pantomimes, or ‘pantos’. You will find a pantomime in almost every theatre in Britain in wintertime...’Oh yes you will!’
Glossary 词汇表

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pantomime - (圣诞节上演的)话剧</th>
<th>Character - 角色</th>
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<tr>
<td>Originate from - 起源于...</td>
<td>Based on - 以...为基础, 基于</td>
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<td>Date from - 起始于...</td>
<td>Folk stories - 民间故事</td>
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<td>Stock character - 固定角色</td>
<td>Fairy tales - 神话故事</td>
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<td>Slapstick - 闹剧, 滑稽戏</td>
<td>Pantomime dame - 话剧的女主角之一, 通常是指年岁较大的那位</td>
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<td>Clownish - 滑稽的</td>
<td>Played by - 由...来演</td>
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<td>Physical comedy - 喜剧 (主要用肢体语言表达)</td>
<td>Bawdy - 淫猥的, 下流的。</td>
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<td>Clown - 小丑</td>
<td>Principal boy - 话剧的男主角</td>
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<td>Audience participation - 观众的参与</td>
<td>Actors - 演员</td>
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<td>Catch phrases - 口头禅, 套话</td>
<td>Celebrities - 社会名流</td>
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1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真？哪句是假？请圈出正确答案。

1. Pantomimes are a modern idea. True / False
2. The audience recognise the characters’ catch phrases. True / False
3. Slapstick comedy often involves people falling over. True / False
4. Male characters are never played by women. True / False
5. The audience must be quiet during a pantomime performance. True / False
2. Odd One Out 挑出另类词

Which of the words in each group is the odd one out?

Circle the odd one out.

在下列每组词中选出一个另类词:

1. fairy tale; nursery rhyme; textbook; folk story
2. pantomime; ballet; play; film
3. business man; clown; acrobat; actor
4. cinema; library; theatre; concert hall
5. TV presenter; actor; accountant; pop star
3. Jumbled Sentences 打乱词序的句子

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列，组成一个正确的句子。

1. type Slapstick comedy a physical is of

2. fairy based Pantomimes folk on tales or are stories

3. A usually pantomime by is man a dame played

4. White is and Snow popular the seven a pantomime dwarves

5. singers act from TV often and pantomimes celebrities in Pop

6. famous called A Grimaldi phrases introduced clown catch
4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with pantomimes in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与圣诞节话剧有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

slapstick clown pantomime actors theatre fairy tale catch-phrase dame audience bawdy
1. **Reading Quiz** 阅读测验

1. Pantomimes are a modern idea. **False**
2. The audience recognise the characters’ catch phrases. **True**
3. Slapstick comedy often involves people falling over. **True**
4. Male characters are never played by women. **False**
5. The audience must be quiet during a pantomime performance. **False**

2. **Odd one out**

1. **textbook** – all the others are types of children’s fiction
2. **film** – all the others are performed in a theatre
3. **accountant** – all the others are types of performers
4. **library** – all the others are places where you can watch a performance
5. **business man** – all the others are celebrities who might take part in a pantomime

3. **Jumbled Sentences** 打乱词序的句子

1. Slapstick is a physical type of comedy.
2. Pantomimes are based on fairy tales or folk stories.
3. A pantomime dame is usually played by a man.
4. Snow White and the seven dwarves is a popular pantomime.
5. Pop stars and celebrities from TV often act in pantomimes.
6. A famous clown called Grimaldi introduced catch phrases.

4. **Wordsearch** 单词搜索

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