

## 美国老电影中的口音为什么不英不美

- ▶ 美国老电影中的口音为什么不英不美？什么是 Midatlantic Accent？
- ▶ 罗斯福总统演讲时为何不带 r 音？The only thing we have to fear is fear itself 中的 “fear itself” 为什么听起来仿佛一个 “l” 音？
- ▶ 好莱坞曾经著名的制片厂体制是什么？上世纪二三十年代，电影从无声转有声，导致许多无声荧幕的宠儿失去了光环，这一切是怎样推动了 Midatlantic Accent 的推行？



扫码听课



听课笔记

## The Rise and Fall of Katharine Hepburn's Fake Accent

讲解正文

*When Hollywood turned to **talkies**, it created a not-quite-British, not-quite-American style of speaking that has all but disappeared.*

By Trey Taylor, *The Atlantic*, Published Aug. 9, 2013

"Play it, Sam. Play 'As Time Goes By,'" purrs a **moon-faced** Ingrid Bergman in the now-famous scene from 1942's *Casablanca*. **Staccato** t's and **accordion**-stretched a's lend a musical flavor to Bergman's **lilt**. "Early" becomes "euh-ly" and "perhaps" unfolds as "peuh-haps."

The **grandeur** and **glamor** in her voice, though, is a **sham**.

No, really. That's not a real accent. It's a now-abandoned **affectation** from the period that saw the rise of **matinee** idols and Hitchcock's **blonde bombshells**. Talk like that today and **be the butt of** jokes (see *Frasier*). But in the '30s and '40s, there are almost no films in which the characters don't speak with this **faux**-British elocution—a hybrid of Britain's Received Pronunciation and standard American English as it exists today. It's called Mid-Atlantic English (not to be confused with local accents of the Eastern **seaboard**), a name that describes a birthplace halfway between Britain and America. Learned in aristocratic **finishing schools** or taught for use in theater to the Bergmans and Hepburns who were carefully **groomed** in the studio system, it was class for the masses, **doled out** through motion



**parlors**, the accent had become common to off-screen America. But more people spoke as they do today, with regionally developed accents like Boston Brahmin or Locust Valley Lockjaw. The rejection of Mid-Atlantic was also a rejection of classicism. **Highfalutin** figures in American society who **luxuriated** in the **vernacular** were edged out by the everyman. "This idealization of the linguistic behavior of upper class Americans continued, in some Hollywood films, up to the late '40s and '50s," says Dr. Marko Modiano, senior lecturer in English studies at Gävle University. "It lost its position with the rise of a new generation of film stars who, like everyone else, were moving more and more toward the kind of neutral American English which we hear today in the US."

Nowadays, social media's ability to mass-ridicule a **crummy rendition** of a foreign accent means that speech coaches are written into contracts. Barbara Berkery helped concoct Johnny Depp's **inebriated** mumble for the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise, which has **ruefully seeped** into Depp's subsequent roles (*The Rum Diary*, *The Lone Ranger*). And just to confuse things, Brits have **spurned typecasting** for the role of butler and are increasingly putting on American accents to win over US markets. Henry Cavill, the Channel Islands **chap** who plays Superman in this summer's *Man of Steel*, did some heavy lifting to affect a Midwest manner of speech. "Doing an accent is like going into the gym for a workout," he tells *Collider*. "If you pick up the heaviest weight possible and try and clean and press it, you're going to pull something." For Emma Watson's Calabasas **caw** in *The Bling Ring*, she marathoned through several seasons of *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* to match the sisters' vocal fry.

Marathon as they might, though, few of today's actors will ever need to perfect a widely heard but invented dialect. Mid-Atlantic English defined an era on screen by lending films an escapist, more-refined-than-reality allure. As Hollywood's golden age was ushered out, the accent went with it. Katharine Hepburn and Jimmy Stewart's romantic spat in *The Philadelphia Story* offered a metaphorical **damnation** of the high-society cinema accent. "Shut up. Shut up. Oh, Mike, keep talking. Keep talking. *Talk*, will you?" Hepburn pleads. To which Jimmy Stewart's character soberly states, "No, no, I've... I've stopped." And so, too, did Mid-Atlantic English.

## 词汇

**talkie** /'tɔ:ki/ n. (早期的) 有声电影

○ (*old-fashioned, especially NAmE*) a film/movie that has sounds and not just pictures

**moon-faced** /'mu:n,feist/ adj. 圆脸的, 圆面的

○ having a round face  
○ e.g. He was a moon-faced, roly-poly little man. 他是个圆脸的矮胖小个子。

**staccato** /stə'kɑ:təʊ/ adj. 断音的, 断奏的

○ with each note played separately in order to produce short, sharp sounds  
○ e.g. staccato sounds 断奏音调

**accordion** /ə'kɔ:diən/ n. 手风琴

○ a musical instrument that you hold in both hands to produce sounds. You press the two ends together and pull them apart and press buttons and/or keys to produce the different notes.

**lilt** /lɪlt/ n. 抑扬顿挫的声音, 优美的旋律

○ a pleasant pattern of rising and falling sound in someone's voice or in music  
○ e.g. the lilt of a Scottish accent 苏格兰口音的抑扬顿挫

**grandeur** /'grændʒə/ n. 壮丽, 雄伟

○ impressive beauty, power, or size  
○ e.g. the grandeur of the mountains 山峦的巍峨壮丽

**glamor** /'glæmə(r)/ n. (财富和成功带来的) 魅力, 诱惑力

○ (= glamour) the attractive and exciting quality of being connected with wealth and success  
○ e.g. Forget all you read about the glamor of television. 不要去管书报上怎么说电视如何有魅力。

**sham** /ʃæm/ n. 假冒者; 假装, 骗局 (含贬义)

○ someone or something that is not what they are claimed to be – used to show disapproval  
○ e.g. The elections were a complete sham. 这次大选完全是一场骗局。

**affectation** /,æfek'teɪʃən/ n. 装模作样, 矫揉造作

○ a way of behaving, speaking, etc. that is not sincere or natural  
○ e.g. His British accent is an affectation. 他的英语口语音很矫揉造作。

**matinee** /'mæti:ni/ n. (戏剧、电影的) 午后场, 日场

○ an afternoon performance of a play, etc.; an afternoon showing of a film/movie  
○ e.g. to go to the matinee 去看下午场演出

**blonde bombshell** 金发美女

○ a sexually attractive woman with light-coloured hair

**be the butt of sth.** 受到嘲讽 (或批评), 是笑柄 (或话柄等)

○ to be the person or thing that other people often joke about or criticize  
○ e.g. She was the butt of some very unkind jokes. 她受到了刻薄的嘲弄。

**faux** /fəʊ/ adj. 人造的, 仿制的

○ artificial, but intended to look or seem real  
○ e.g. The chairs were covered in faux animal skin. 椅子套是人造兽皮的。

**seaboard** /'si:bɔ:d/ n. 沿海地区, 海滨

○ the part of a country that is along its coast  
○ e.g. Australia's eastern seaboard 澳大利亚东部沿海地区

**finishing school** n. 精修学校 (为富家女子学习上流社会行为所办的私立学校)

○ a private school where young women from rich families are taught how to behave in fashionable society

**groom** /gru:m/ v. 使做好准备, 培养, 训练

○ to prepare or train sb. for an important job or position  
○ e.g. Our junior employees are being groomed for more senior roles. 我们的初级雇员正在接受培训以承担更重要的职责。

**dole sth.** ↔ **out (to sb.)** 发放, 发给 (食物、钱等), 施舍, 散播

○ (*informal*) to give out an amount of food, money, etc. to a number of people in a group  
○ e.g. Vera was doling out candy to all the kids. 维拉正在给所有的孩子分发糖果。

**bulldoze** /'bʊldəʊz/ v. (用推土机) 推倒, 铲平

○ to destroy buildings, trees, etc. with a bulldozer  
○ e.g. The trees are being bulldozed to make way for a new superstore. 那片树正被推土机铲除, 以兴建一家新超市。

**indecent** /m'di:snt/ adj. (行为、讲话等) 下流的, 有伤风化的, 猥亵的

○ (of behaviour, talk, etc.) thought to be morally offensive, especially because it involves sex or being naked  
○ e.g. indecent conduct/photos 下流的行为; 淫秽的照片

**quip** /kwɪp/ v. 说俏皮话, 说妙语

○ to say something clever and amusing  
○ e.g. 'Giving up smoking is easy,' he quipped. 'I've done it hundreds of times.' “戒烟很容易啊,” 他风趣地说, “我已经戒过几百次了。”

**catalyst** /'kætəlɪst/ n. 催化剂, 触媒

○ (*technical*) a substance that makes a chemical reaction happen more quickly without being changed itself

**distinction** /dɪ'stɪŋkʃən/ n. (授予优秀学生的) 优等评分, 荣誉分数, 打分系统

- a special mark given to a student whose work is excellent
- e.g. He obtained a law doctorate with distinction. 他以优异的成绩取得了法律博士学位。

**burr** /bɜ:(r)/ n. 小舌 r 音, 颤音 r, 带浓重 r 音的口音 (某些英语方言中的典型发音); 地方口音

- a strong pronunciation of the 'r' sound, typical of some accents in English; an accent with this type of pronunciation
- e.g. a soft Scottish burr 轻柔的苏格兰口音

**trill** /tri:l/ v. (连续) 发颤音, 发短促的响声

- to make repeated short high sounds
- e.g. A phone trilled on the desk. 办公桌上的电话丁零零地响了。

**full-bodied** /fʊl 'bɒdɪd/ adj. (味道) 浓郁的, 浓烈的; (声音) 圆润的, 圆浑的

- having a pleasantly strong taste or sound
- e.g. a full-bodied red wine 浓郁的红葡萄酒

**modulate** /'mɒdjuleɪt/ v. 调节(嗓音的大小、强弱、高低等); 变调, 转调

- to change the quality of your voice in order to create a particular effect by making it louder, softer, lower, etc.
- to change from one musical key (= set of notes) to another
- **modulation** /'mɒdjə'leɪʃən/ n. 转调, 调变

**hone** /həʊn/ v. 磨炼, 训练; 提高(技艺)

- to improve your skill at doing something, especially when you are already very good at it
- e.g. He set about honing his skills as a draughtsman. 他着手提高自己的绘画技艺。

**acclaimed** /ə'kleɪmd/ adj. 备受推崇的, 广受欢迎的

- publicly praised by a lot of people
- e.g. The book has been widely acclaimed by teachers and pupils. 这本书在师生中广受欢迎。

**vogue** /vəʊg/ n. 时尚, 风尚, 流行, 时髦

- a popular and fashionable style, activity, method, etc.
- e.g. Short skirts are very much in vogue just now. 短裙时下非常流行。

**parlor** /'pɑ:lə(r)/ n. (私人住房的) 起居室, 客厅

- (= parlour) a room in a private house for sitting in, entertaining visitors, etc.

**highfalutin** /'haɪfə'lu:tɪn/ adj. 装模作样的, 浮夸的, 做作的

- trying to be serious or important, but in a way that often appears silly and unnecessary

**luxuriate** /'lʌg'zjʊəriət/ v. 尽情享受

- to relax and enjoy something
- e.g. He ran a hot bath and luxuriated in it for half an hour. 他放了一缸热水, 舒舒服服地泡了半个小时。

**vernacular** /və'nækjələ/ n. (尤指非官方语言的) 本国语, 本地语, 土话, 方言

○ a form of a language that ordinary people use, especially one that is not the official language

- e.g. Galileo wrote in the vernacular to reach a larger audience. 为了让更多读者看懂, 伽利略用本国语言写作。

**crummy** /'krʌmi/ adj. 劣质的, 低劣的, 糟糕的

- of very bad quality
- e.g. Most of his songs are pretty crummy. 他的歌曲大多糟糕透顶。

**rendition** /ren'dɪʃən/ n. 表演, 演奏; 翻译, 译文

- someone's performance of a play, piece of music, etc.
- e.g. He gave a moving rendition of Lennon's 'Imagine'. 他深情地演唱了列侬的《想象》。
- a translation of a piece of writing
- e.g. an English rendition of a Greek poem 一首希腊语诗歌的英译

**inebriated** /i'ni:briətɪd/ adj. 喝醉的

- (*formal*) drunk

**rueful** /'ru:fl/ adj. 悲伤的, 懊悔的, 沮丧的

- feeling or showing that you are sad or sorry
- e.g. a rueful smile 惨然一笑
- **ruefully** /'ru:fəli/ adv. 悲伤地, 懊悔地
- e.g. 'So this is goodbye,' she said ruefully. 她悲伤地说: “那么, 这就是告别了。”

**seep** /si:p/ v. 渗, 渗透

- to flow slowly and in small quantities through sth. or into sth.
- e.g. Blood was beginning to seep through the bandages. 血开始从绷带渗出来。

**spurn** /spɜ:n/ v. 轻蔑地拒绝, 对 ... 不屑一顾

- to refuse to accept something or someone, especially because you are too proud
- e.g. She spurned all offers of help. 她骄傲地拒绝一切帮助。

**typecast** /'taɪpkɑ:st/ v. 让(演员)总演同一类型的角色

- If an actor is typecast, he or she is always given the same kind of character to play.
- e.g. She didn't want to be typecast as a dumb blonde. 她不想总是演傻乎乎的金发女郎一类的角色。

**chap** /tʃæp/ n. (尤指你认识和喜欢的) 小伙子, 家伙

- a man, especially a man you know and like
- e.g. a decent sort of chap 一个正派的小伙子

**caw** /kɔ:/ n. (尤指乌鸦等鸟类的) 鸦叫声

- the loud sound made by some types of bird, especially crows

**damnation** /dæm'neɪʃn/ n. 天谴, 罚入地狱

- the state of being in hell; the act of sending sb. to hell
- e.g. eternal damnation 永罚



## 今日习题

## 1. 根据英文释义写出文中出现的对应单词

\_\_\_\_\_ : a way of behaving, speaking, etc. that is not sincere or natural

\_\_\_\_\_ : a form of a language that ordinary people use, especially one that is not the official language

## 2. 一词多义

Which of the following underlined words is closest in meaning to the one in the sentence " Learned in aristocratic finishing schools or taught for use in theater to the Bergmans and Hepburns who were carefully groomed in the studio system, it was class for the masses, doled out through motion pictures."?

\_\_\_\_\_

- A. Their main preoccupation is licking and grooming themselves.
- B. Her hair is always perfectly groomed.
- C. The horses are all well fed and groomed.
- D. The eldest son is being groomed to take over when his father dies.

## 3. 翻译：根据给定中文回译英文

这是一种如今已被遗弃的矫揉造作，来自那个见证了偶像派男演员和希区柯克的金发性感女郎崛起的时代。

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 习题答案

cock's blonde bombshells.

3. It's a now-abandoned affectation from the period that saw the rise of matinee idols and Hitch-

2. D

1. affectation; vernacular

凯瑟琳·赫本 (Katharine Hepburn, 1907 年 -2003 年) 是美国著名的影视女演员。赫本出生于康涅狄格州哈特福德城，她的父亲是一位泌尿科医生，同样也是性卫生健康领域的早期开创者之一。她的母亲则是一位女权运动家，为女性争取社会权利。开明的家庭成长环境使赫本从小特立独行、我行我素。她是好莱坞第一位不施粉黛的自由女性，从未向好莱坞的游戏规则妥协，却依旧被尊为好莱坞最具传奇色彩的银幕女神。她曾被美国电影协会誉为“美国百年影史最伟大的女演员之首”。她也是戛纳、威尼斯等艺术电影节的常胜影后，获得过 4 次奥斯卡最佳女主角奖，是获该奖项次数最多的女演员。在她 66 年的从影生涯，共出演过 44 部电影，比如：《离婚清单》 (*A Bill of Divorcement*)、《清晨的荣誉》 (*Morning Glory*)、《小妇人》 (*Little Women*)、《育婴奇谭》 (*Bringing Up Baby*) 等。因其性格活泼、豪爽，赫本常扮演意志坚强、老练的女性。赫本以其非传统的生活方式和她银幕上独立女性的角色，成为了 20 世纪美国“现代女性”的缩影。

赫本的嗓音尖锐，带有中大西洋口音 (Midatlantic Accent)。这种口音上属标准美语与英国 RP 的混合，也称跨大西洋口音 (Transatlantic Accent)，盛行于 20 世纪初美国上层社会与表演界，是受过良好教育的上层人的一种标志。但是在二战后，随着中产阶级发展壮大、英国的衰落等因素，中大西洋口音也逐渐衰落。中大西洋口音具有独特的腔调，在发音上常常省略美式特有的 /r/ 音，/æ/ 常发为 /ɑ:/ 等。这种拿腔拿调的发音方式被视为表演高雅剧目时的最佳选择。因此，许多艺术院校有意向学生传授这种口音，中大西洋口音随之成为演员们的标配。1927 年，好莱坞的“有声片革命”使之成为银幕的主流之声。著名的影视作品《罗马假日》 (*Roman Holiday*)、《卡萨布兰卡》 (*Casablanca*)、《乱世佳人》 (*Gone with the Wind*) 等都带有中大西洋口音的夸张腔调。

参考资料：维基百科