

Hi folks,

For those wishing to hear a version of Peter Cook's mining skit, you should do a Google search for a video with the skit. You might well catch an additional skit (preceeding in at least one video) that mocks the state of British science, theater censorship, and racism (as well as corrupt African leaders, probably now offensive to many) all in one pseudo-interview show.

As with so many great comedians, Cook was an ad lib and variations-on-a-theme performer, so different "bits" showed up different nights. My favorite is on the cast album from Broadway!

I am not saying Henry Carr in "Travesties" is meant to sound like the miner, only that the patterns of comedy there--repetition, sly inversions, and absurd juxtapositions delivered with a straight face--were Peter Cook's master ingredients in many 'character' skits, and Stoppard knew them and his manic popularity.

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