

[Recording of the week: You havin' a bubble, mate?](#)

This week's selection comes from Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator of Spoken English. Last month, while preparing for a panel discussion at the Modern Cockney Festival, I stumbled across a Guardian interview with John Cooper Clarke discussing his poem 'I Wanna Be Yours'. Reflecting on his career, Clarke notes he was...

[Recording of the week: Herbert Beerbohm Tree as Falstaff](#)

The famously successful actor and theatre manager Herbert Beerbohm Tree (1852-1917) made this recording in March 1906. It was one of a set of five 10-inch discs recorded for release by the Gramophone Company. These were originally issued in a 'special envelope' (which we don't have) which included the texts...

[Recording of the week: The sound designer: the theatre as an experimental stage](#)

Photograph of an actor on stage. Photograph by Antonio Molinari on Unsplash. In this 2004 interview from British Library collection 'Theatre Archive Project' (C1142/350), sound designer Ross Brown describes the process of sound creation in theatre. Listen to Ross Brown Download Ross Brown transcript Sound design is, among many things,...

Wings aren't just for flying

The mechanics behind bird flight have fascinated and inspired humans for centuries. From Leonardo da Vinci to the Wright Brothers, this seemingly effortless process has captivated and influenced some of the finest scientific and engineering minds in history. Wings aren't just for flying though. For some species, wings are also...

Recording of the week: Peter Rickenback on being a fugitive in Europe

The British Library recently launched a new online learning resource, Voices of the Holocaust, as part of Unlocking Our Sound Heritage. The new website features a curated selection of audio clips, pulled mainly from four collections of oral history interviews with Holocaust survivors held at the British Library's sound archive...