

## John Watts

### "One Night Only"

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He got shafted in Bradford for his out of date routines  
up there  
And the trouble he ran into Brighton was more than his  
share  
He's been running for thirty years, he would have  
settled down  
But each town he appears in puts a red nose on the  
clown

You can buy the old showbills and frame them, they're  
nearly antiques  
You can trip up on his big clown shoes as you're  
starting to speak  
He squirts the flower, hurts your hand, it'll always catch  
you  
And his tears are etched so deep that they might just  
be tattooed

The one man circus is coming to town  
Put the banners up, take your trousers down  
Paint on a smile, wipe off the frown  
Heaven knows he won't hurt us  
The loose, the lovely and the lonely  
One night only

He said 'I played Chaplin for Hitler in March 44  
Been a black and white minstrel before that whole thing  
was outlawed  
And I've dragged it on every pier in every seaside town  
But there aren't any dances today, the pavilions have  
all been pulled down

I came over straight after the war and they hijacked my  
name  
I waited for so many years but my wife never came  
I've been learning these lines every day since 1945  
And I'll recite them everyday I wished I was alive'

The one man circus is coming to town  
Get the dogs out, tear the posters down  
Paint go home on the walls til he is elsewhere bound

Don't you know he could hurt us  
The loose, the lovely and the lonely  
One night only

He's tripping over backwards, taking off his clothes  
And no-one helps him, everyone knows  
We laugh at the misfortune of others

Everytime the glass empties, the lions they all get set  
free  
On a town full of unsuspecting tourists who scream  
when they're happy  
And the scarecrow's on probation just for making faces  
in a mirror  
The past put a hand on his shoulder and drowned him  
in tears

Now he ushers and watched the movies where children  
don't age  
And the dancing horse stole all the keys and took  
charge of the stage  
And the freaks are on the razzmatazz, they're all  
fuelled on coke and gin  
And the cast-out's on the street and we've already let  
him in

The one man circus

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