IMPROVING
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STEAM

"the safety valve alone knows the worst truth about the engine." - w. empson

Friday, August 08, 2008

Call me Ishmael
Posted by Bill Benzon on 08/08/08 at 09:28 AM

Orsone Welles reads the opening of *Moby Dick*:
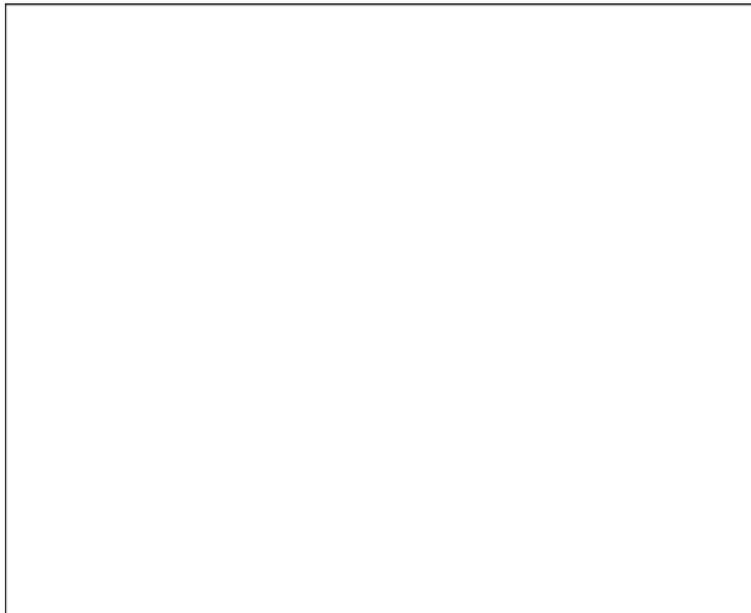
Hat tip to Terry Teachout (check out the YouTube clips he lists down the righthand column), who discusses voice recordings by notable literary figures (WSJ). Meanwhile, magicians, cognitivists and neuroscientists write about consciousness, perception, and deception in *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*:

> Attention and awareness in stage magic: turning tricks into research.
> Stephen L. Macknik, Mac King, James Randi, Apollo Robbins, Teller, John Thompson & Susana Martinez-Conde
>
> Just as vision scientists study visual art and illusions to elucidate the workings of the visual system, so too can cognitive scientists study cognitive illusions to elucidate the underpinnings of cognition. Magic shows are a manifestation of accomplished magic performers' deep intuition for and understanding of human attention and awareness. By studying magicians and their techniques, neuroscientists can learn powerful methods to manipulate attention and awareness in the laboratory. Such methods could be exploited to directly study the behavioural and neural basis of consciousness itself, for instance through the use of brain imaging and other neural recording techniques.

More Welles below the fold.

Shylock:
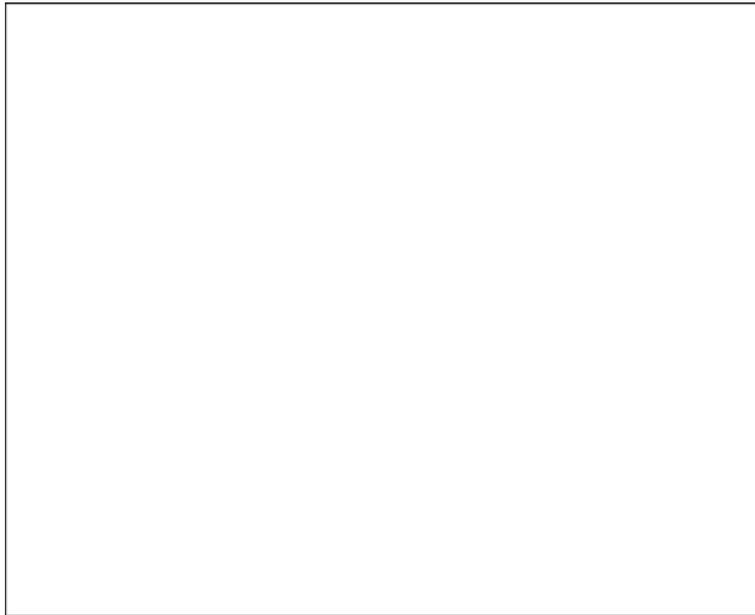
Comments

Welles on Chartres:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUrKCUTUSPo&feature=related

By Bill Benzon on 08/08/08 at 05:11 PM | Permanent link to this comment

'Call me Ishmael'

If you insist - 'Hi Ishmael!'

Have you checked out the animals reciting famous writers on YOUTUBE? There's a great one of a bulldog with a voice-over of Dylan Thomas reciting, 'Do not go gentle …'

Good party game: suggestions for who/what might recite a given text. How about a great dane reciting 'Hamlet'?

[I'm in a silly mood …]

By Sue G-J on 08/08/08 at 07:04 PM | Permanent link to this comment

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