

# One Night Only

John Wesley Harding

He got shafted in Bradford for his out of date routines up there  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

A

Songwriters

HARDING, JOHN WESLEY Published by

Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.

Lyrics provided by

<https://damnllyrics.com/>