

LESSON 8 Becoming Winston Churchill

Transforming into Winston Churchill was one of Gary Oldman's greatest challenges. Churchill was the British Prime Minister who led the United Kingdom to victory in World War II. Putting on special makeup required hours each day. Fake body parts made even simple movements difficult. Oldman often said that wearing the full makeup felt like stepping into another body.

Oldman pushed himself to understand Churchill's personality and the way he spoke. He spent months studying recordings and biographies. He tried to capture not only Churchill's sound, but also his inner conflicts and private worries.

There were days when the heat from the lights and the weight of the makeup exhausted him. Nevertheless, he stayed in character. These efforts helped him play a leader in a nation's darkest moment.

*the United Kingdom 「英国」 World War II 「第二次世界大戦」 push *oneself to do* 「～するように頑張る, 自らを追い込む」 biography 「伝記」 inner conflict 「内面の葛藤」 exhaust 「～を (くたくたに) 疲れさせる」

Comprehension

① Answer true or false.

1. It was easy for Gary Oldman to transform into Winston Churchill.
2. Fake body parts made moving difficult for Oldman.
3. Oldman studied recordings and biographies of Churchill to understand him better.
4. The heat from the lights and the heavy makeup sometimes made Oldman tired.

② Answer the questions.

1. Who was Winston Churchill?
2. How did Oldman prepare to understand Churchill's voice and personality?

Give Your Opinion

What do you think is the most important thing for an actor when he or she plays a real person?

<和訳> ウィンストン・チャーチルになること

ウィンストン・チャーチルへの変身は、ゲイリー・オールドマンにとって最大の挑戦のひとつでした。チャーチルは第二次世界大戦において英国を勝利に導いた英国首相でした。特殊メイクを施すのには毎日何時間もかかりました。にせの体の部分(=体の特殊メイク)は、単純な動作さえ困難にしました。オールドマンは「完全にメイクをすることは、まるで別の身体に踏み入るように感じた」とたびたび言っています。

オールドマンは、チャーチルの性格や話し方を理解するために自らを追い込みました。彼は数か月かけて、チャーチルの録音資料や伝記を研究しました。チャーチルの声だけでなく、彼の内面の葛藤や私的な悩みまでもとらえようとしたのです。

照明の熱とメイクの重さに、疲れ果てる日々がありました。それでも彼は役柄を貫きました。こうした努力は、国家が最も暗い時代に直面したときの指導者を演じる助けになりました。

Comprehension <解答>

① 1. F 2. T 3. T 4. T

- ② 1. He was the British Prime Minister who led the United Kingdom to victory in World War II.
2. He spent months studying (Churchill's) recordings and biographies.

Give Your Opinion <解答例>

- I think it is important for an actor to show the person's personality.
- I think the most important thing is to look like the person.