

WHO IS IT?



A lot of strange stories are told about him. It's difficult to decide whether they are true or not. He never gave interviews and was rarely seen in public, except on stage. Certainly his behaviour may seem eccentric. In public he often wore a face mask to protect himself from germs, he slept inside an oxygen capsule, which he believed would help him to live longer. But his manager says that he wasn't eccentric. He was just shy. He sang in public for the first time when he was five. Since that time he had always been in the public eye. And since that time he had been working like a grown-up.

There were times when he came home from school and he only had time to put his books and get ready for the studio. He often sang until late at night, even if it was past his bedtime. There was a park across the street from the studio, and he looked at the kids playing games. And he just stared at them in wonder — he couldn't imagine such freedom, such a carefree life.

He said about himself that in the crowd he was afraid, on stage he was safe. Off stage he felt happiest with animals and children. It's not a secret that his favourite hero was Peter Pan.

He has been called "the child who never grew up", but I think he was a grown-up who was never allowed to be a child.

Whether he was crazy, childish, eccentric or just shy, he was no fool. He created a brilliantly successful image, he made a lot of money and spent it on the things he wanted.

