**8年级（上）英语第18课时（第6周）**

**《老舍茶馆—大碗茶中品中国》学程拓展**

**拓展阅读**

想一想：你认为老舍茶馆能够在现代化社会仍然成功的原因是什么？

**Lao She Teahouse: AI tech mingles (融合) with old Beijing culture**

Every tourism peak season (旅游旺季） in Beijing, such as the Spring Festival or the summer holidays, many tourists visit the Lao She Teahouse to enjoy the genuine culture of old Beijing, where traditional opera, magic shows, acrobatics, face-changing, Chinese kung fu and other folk art performances are staged in turn. Now, the teahouse also features (以…为特色) AI robot waiters and smart machines that can provide other interesting experiences for visitors.

Dating back to 1988, Lao She Teahouse was named after the famous writer and artist Lao She and his well-known play *Teahouse*. It was the first modern teahouse that emerged (出现) after the reform and opening up of China (中国改革开放), with the price of a big bowl of tea costing only two fen (0.13 cents).

"Today we still offer a bowl of tea for only two fen for the convenience of tourists because there are so many people visiting Qianmen Street every day. We are retaining (保留) the traditions and memories of the old Beijing," said Jiao Yin, the director of the performance department of Lao She Teahouse.

Lao She Teahouse presents a miniature (微型的) cultural and commercial version (版本) of the old Beijing. The first floor shows the civilian (平民的) culture, including traditional street dining. On the second floor, there are tea rooms showcasing Siheyuan, a courtyard surrounded by buildings on all four sides. And there is a fancy restaurant with noble decorations, implying the royal culture of old Beijing.

Jiao told CGTN that in 2011, they launched (推出) the Beijing Traditional Commercial Museum on the second floor, part of which exhibits 13 kinds of business stores that were commonly seen in old Beijing and made of dough figurines (面人). Traditional commercial flags and signs are hung up overhead and visitors can tell what the shops sell when looking at the signs, such as a huge ink pen for a traditional stationery store.

Lao She Teahouse launched the AI tea house program in October in cooperation (合作) with Baidu Brain AI Studio. Customers can order via smart robot waiters, and interact with mirrors empowered with facial and speech recognition (人脸和语音识别) that write personalized poems after scanning (扫描) visitors' faces. The "smart tea specialist" machine requires visitors to recognize several kinds of tea and rearrange (重新排列) them into a certain order. It can discern (识别) different types of tea based on a huge photographic database (图片库).

"This project aims to (力争做到) bring new light to the old teahouse and to bring it in line with new fashions," Jiao said.