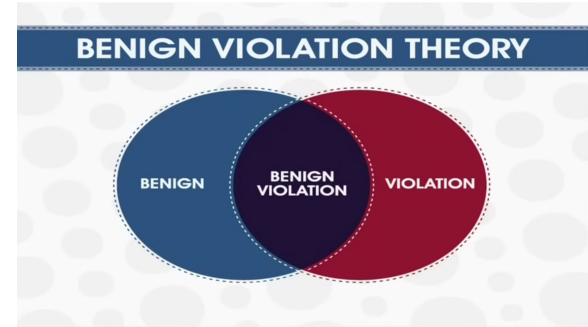




Sketch Comedy

Lemo Sekiguchi (AM Film)

What Makes Something Funny?



1. Violation
 - a. Anything that **threatens** the way you believe the world should be
 - i. Social - Moral Norms
2. Benign
 - a. **Not** being so **serious/committed** to the violation
 - i. Psychologically **distant** - happened long ago, happened to someone else, or doesn't seem real
 - ii. **Alternative explanation** that makes the violation okay
 1. Ex. Tickling/Mock attacks -threatening attacks that seem harmless
3. Both Violation and Benign Occur **Simultaneously**



What Does Humor Do for Us?

- Brings us together
- Helps us cope with pain
- Triggers positive feelings - releases endorphins
- Brings our minds and bodies into balance
- Inspires hope
- Helps us release anger



Type of Comedic Performances

1. Stand-up Comedy
2. Improvisational Comedy
3. Sketch comedy

What is Sketch Comedy?



A piece of **writing acted out** on stage/television, performed by a group of comedic actors, typically between **two to five** minutes, made to **make audiences laugh**.

“comedic **exploration** of a concept, character, or situation” - SkillShareBlog

Autobiographical

vs

Parody

Based on observational humor - situations or character traits you have experienced or witnessed, that is exaggerated for comic effect

A comedic take on popular content at the time - song, films, shows, events/news, etc



Protective Mom - SNL



Spanish Class - SNL



First Warm Day of the Year Red Carpet Open - SNL



BeReal - SNL



Weekend Update: Donald Trump Indicted - SNL



HBO Mario Kart Trailer - SNL



Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Trial Cold Open - SNL



How to write a sketch comedy

1. **Brainstorm** - jot down **situations** that stood out to you and **explore why** it stood out
2. **Premise** - explore **possibilities** - question yourself “What if?” & write down all **connected ideas**
3. **Outline** - **arrange** ideas in order of **smallest to biggest**
4. **Dialogue** - **name** characters and give them a **voice/personality**
5. **Edit** - **read** the sketch out loud to yourself **multiple** times while **thinking** about the **flow, laugh lines, smoothness**



Popular Types of Comedy

1. Slapstick Comedy
2. Dark Comedy
3. Self-deprecating Humor
4. Romantic Comedy
5. High Comedy
6. Situational Comedy
7. Parody
8. Surreal Humor
9. Tragicomedy
10. Farce
11. Wordplay Comedy
12. Deadpan Comedy
13. **Observational comedy**

Slapstick Comedy

Involves physical comedy, exaggerated facial expressions, and stunts



Situational Comedy

Find humor in the interactions and dynamics of a cast of individuals that appear repeatedly in the same location.





Observational comedy

Utilize performances to **highlight** the humor that goes undetected in daily life

Process

INT. PASTA MARKET

RAZVAN, ERICA, and BRENNAN sit in a dining table.

Razvan wears a business suit, Erica wears a lulu-lemon jacket, Brennan wears a button up shirt.

RAZVAN
So the government is spending all this money on the Averna and Latveria war but how will this affect the fishing season?

They all laugh like rich snobby people.

BRENNAN
But I love the fishing season!

They all laugh once again.

The WAITER walks in wearing a black vest.

WAITER
Here is the Pomodoro pasta!

He gets out the parmesan cheese and starts grating

WAITER (CONT'D)
Please say when.

ERICA
Oh I forgot to ask, does this have GMOs?

WAITER
Umm...

The waiter gets cut off-

BRENNAN
Oh my god yes! I read a pamphlet at the dentist office. It said they're using these GMOs to make the chickens beefier.

RAZVAN
Oh yeah - you see, I have this theory, these GMOs are what's turning all these people GAY. I have no proof, but I swear on the good lord it is true true.

The waiter starts to panic by the flowing cheese, he begins to panic.

WAITER
Say when PLEASE!

BRENNAN
Genetically modified organisms? More like GAY organisms.

ERICA
Yeah I thought it always stood for gay modifying organisms - am I wrong fellas. I mean genetic! These days all the kids are a part of the LBGTQA and use the they/them croutons. Back in my day, there were TWO GENDERS just as the good lord above intended (hand cross then prayer)

Waiter is being ignored so he panics and sweats even more by the overflowing cheese.

BRENNAN
Amen brother.

ERICA
They mean more than one person... what are they, two kids in a trench coat?

Razvan laughs.

RAZVAN
Yeah!

The waiter is sweating and panicking fully at this point. We see the very overflowing cheese. He finally runs out of all the cheese and wipes his sweat off.

He looks at Razvan, Erica, and Brennan with intimidating eyes and sighs. He gives up and moves to another table. At the other table there is a single person done with their meal. They put cash on the table. They get up to leave and when they get up, there are two kids in a trenchcoat.

2.





What I made



Inspirations

- Charlie Chaplin's Slapstick Comedy Performance
- Saturday Night Live





Thank you for listening!

Questions?