

Humorist study

Analysis

The two comedians I decided to look at for this humorist study are Eric Andre and Nathan Fielder. These two comedians have a very similar sense of humor but both portray it in different ways. Eric Andre is a talk show host that likes to make his guests very uncomfortable but also does public pranks to random pedestrians. I focused on his "Street Skits" which he makes up these crazy scenarios and convinces people they are real. Eric Andre is known for his surreal, shock, and anti-humor. He often pranks unsuspecting people on the street or in his studio, where he interviews celebrities in absurd and chaotic situations. Some of his best work comes from skits that he does on the New York subway. For example he dressed up as a bowl of cereal and went on the subway complaining that he didn't get the job at Fruit Loops, then he told the people that his body is their communion and they should eat from him. He also performs random acts of violence, nudity, and destruction on himself or his surroundings. His humor is based on creating discomfort, confusion, and surprise for his audience and his victims. He draws inspiration from his experiences as a black and Jewish man in America, as well as his musical background as a bassist.

The other comedian I focused on was Nathan Fielder. Nathan is known for his deadpan, cringe, and improvisational humor. He helps struggling small business owners with unconventional and often ridiculous ideas that usually backfire or have unintended consequences. He also interacts with real people in awkward and uncomfortable scenarios that test their patience, morality, or common sense. His humor is based on exposing the flaws, contradictions, and absurdities of human behavior and society. He draws inspiration from his education in business and his skills as a magician. Some of his most memorable stunts include creating a fake reality show, hiring a professional actor to impersonate himself, making a parody of Starbucks, and convincing people to lie for him in exchange for free gas. Nathan's comedy is not for everyone, as some may find it cruel, offensive, or unethical. However, he claims that he never intends to harm anyone and that he always gets consent from his participants before airing the episodes. Nathan's show is a unique blend of satire, prank, and social experiment that challenges the norms and expectations of the modern world.

These two comedians are very different in their approach to their comedic style but they do have a couple of similarities. Eric Andre and Nathan Fielder use comedy as a way of exploring the boundaries of reality and fiction, as well as challenging the norms and values of their culture. They both have a unique vision and voice that have influenced many other comedians and artists. They both use lots of black humor and awkwardness which makes the people they're targeting and the audience feel cringe or uncomfortable. What I found very similar between the two is that they don't have a script to read off, so both come up with what they are saying on the spot. These two comedians both have a way of keeping you hooked to their show even if you feel uncomfortable with their cringe and absurd humor.

Reflection

Comedy is one of the most important parts of my life. I turn to humor to help me get through life's obstacles and challenges. It allows me to express my personality and feelings while connecting with others who have a similar sense of humor. Things become more acceptable if there is a humor aspect to it. Even though I enjoy humor so much, it is difficult for me to describe it to others. I like a different kind of humor than what most people find amusing. I enjoy humor that is dark, awkward, or absurd. I find humor in things that others might find disturbing, cringe, or ridiculous.

One type of humor I enjoy is absurd humor. This is when something is so ridiculous or illogical that it makes me laugh. For example, I like watching *The Eric Andre Show*, where Eric does or says things that are completely nonsensical or outrageous. I find absurd humor funny because it surprises me and challenges my expectations. It also makes me appreciate the absurdity of life and not take things too seriously. This type of humor made me realize that if you use it correctly it can build confidence. Most people would be too embarrassed to say half the things that Eric says in his show, but he does it without hesitation. I aspire to use absurd humor the way Eric Andre uses it.

Another type of humor that is a major inspiration to me is ironic humor. One of my favorite tv shows, *Nathan For You*, where in almost every episode something is the opposite of what it should be or what is expected. I find ironic humor funny because it exposes the flaws or hypocrisy of human nature or society. It also makes me think critically and question the norms or assumptions that I have. The way that Nathan used awkwardness in his show was very appealing to me. It made me not want to watch an episode because of how cringe it would get, but at the same time I would want to see what would happen. Exaggeration and Sarcasm are also humorist techniques that I am inspired by. Sarcasm is something that is used in everyday talking. I like using sarcasm when I talk to my friends or family, especially when I want to tease them or make fun of them. I find sarcasm funny because it adds a layer of irony or wit to what I say. It also makes me use my language skills and social cues to convey my meaning. I take the most inspiration from this because I don't go a day without using it.

Comedy is so important in my life because it enriches my experience and understanding of the world. By using different types of humor, such as absurd, ironic, exaggerated, and sarcastic, I can cope with stress, connect with others, and express myself creatively. Comedy also helps me to appreciate the diversity and complexity of human nature and behavior. I believe that comedy is not only a source of entertainment but also a source of wisdom and insight. I hope that I can use absurd and ironic humor like the comedians mentioned above and use their techniques to make a great skit myself.

Bibliography

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1.) Are you collaborating with others? Yes* or No

Yes, Xavier Haberlach

2.) Which form of humor are you planning to develop? (See [menu](#).)

We are planning to develop a satirical video.

3.) What is the subject (or, in the case of satire, the target)? Why did you choose this subject?

Our subject is a parody of a medicine commercial. We chose this subject because we both find Eric Andres street skits funny and wanted to create something that would look like his work.

4.) Which comedic [tools/techniques](#) do you plan to use, and why? (List at least 3 main ones and explain briefly how you plan to use them):

We are planning to make a video using Incongruity, Absurd, and situational humor. We plan to use them by making an absurd medicine brand that would make you sound insane if you ate it. We are thinking of making the medicine a KFC and Coca Cola branded medicine.

5.) Why do you think this is the right humor project for you? (If you have a group, can you assure me that everyone is invested in this idea and you won't have trouble getting everyone to contribute meaningfully?) What makes you excited about this idea? What are some potential pitfalls you wish to avoid?

This project is a perfect fit for me because I have a passion for the topic and I can showcase it through a video instead of a live performance. You can trust that Xavier and I will deliver a high-quality video that meets your expectations and deadlines.

6.) If you get approval, what's your next step?

Our next step would be to write out our script using techniques we learned from our humorist studies. Then start filming it.