

## Humorist Study

### Analysis

The two comedians I chose to look at for this humorist study are Mindy Kaling and the youtuber Arcade Craniacs. These two comedians are on completely different platforms and ways of producing comedy but they both are very interesting comedians. Arcade Craniacs is technically a Youtube channel and is run by Edward Centeno who creates content and videos that are very satirical and ironic. I wanted to focus on his “3 AM” videos. Edward Centeno has captured a very special brand of comedy where his humor is so ironic and satirical you almost question if it's real or for a joke. His videos are structured in a way that he is playing a character that is so energized, involved, and serious that the line between characters and a real person is fuzzy. The joy people are able to find is how absurd the premise of his videos are. He has filmed a lot of videos where he does something regular or popular at 3 AM and documents the crazy things that happen because he is haunted or something super scary is happening. Because he is so committed to his running bit or joke, you can't help but enjoy watching his videos. I find his comedy very absurd but admittedly funny because his use of pop culture items and the idea of clickbait “scary” videos creates the perfect storm of confusion and hilarity.

The other comedian I wanted to focus on was Mindy Kaling. She is known for so many things but I want to focus on her as an actress in *The Office* and *Mindy Project*. I have loved Mindy Kaling's work as a humorist because of the range and talent she has but also because of how absurd her comedy can be. In everything she has written or acted for, the character is always over the top, flamboyant, unapologetically themselves, and often annoying. This perfect storm or outrageous and stereotypical creates shows and scenes that are so funny and enjoyable. I think a lot of her comedy is created by doing characters and a lot of repartee and wit. This type of humor is so enjoyable to watch because it takes average situations and makes them absurd and hilarious. The way both of the characters in the Office and Mindy Project always say what they're thinking, have specific traits that are super extreme, and are very confident have made her a very entertaining person to watch.

In theory these two comedians could not be farther from one another but I have found a lot of underlying similarities between the two. They both use very absurd humor and extreme caricatures. Oftentimes I am unsure if their comedy is real or a joke which creates the type of humor that is slightly uncomfortable but also worthy of an outloud laugh. This is the tactic of irony and it is a tool they both utilize a lot. Mindy's characters are endearing in the weirdest of ways and make it seem like having that much wit and confidence is easy. Edward Centeno is less endearing but he draws you in and makes you ask what he could possibly do next. These two comedians are visually and stylistically a joy to watch and they leave you feeling amused in every way.

## Reflection

Comedy is a very important part of my life. I consume so much media and my life feels bogged down often so humor is one of my favorite ways to combat that. Even though I enjoy most types of humor and can appreciate a good joke, the humor that I enjoy the most is hard to describe. I think it's when the humor flows so naturally and fits into the world so well that it seems like they might just have a very entertaining personality that I am the most entertained.

Growing up in the digital age, I have been raised on Disney channel laugh tracks and sketch comedy videos on Youtube. You are able to tell this by what kind of humor I enjoy vs what I don't connect with as much. I don't enjoy uncomfortable or cruel humor because while I can see the easy appeal, it feels overdone and kind of like a cop out. That's why I also find self depicting humor kind of annoying. Like we get it you hate yourself... But what is going to make me laugh? That might be controversial but I feel like that is what humor is. Pushing to the edges to see what's funny and acceptable. Comedians are constantly choosing new things to joke about or parody.

I really enjoy conversational humor. The kind of wit, sarcasm, and quick remarks that makes you pause and laugh out loud because it fits so perfectly with the conversation. I find it super inspirational when people can achieve this type of humor in skits and actions or in common conversations. Watching Mindy in *The Mindy Project*, she accomplishes this task very well. The way she responds and the actions she takes are perfect in order to create a scene or dialogue that is so funny to me. I understand that a lot of people are not going to agree with what I am writing because even I can see how sometimes this witty humor can seem boring or not as engaging but I truly love it.

Another thing that has sparked my interest is humor that is so absurd and ironic that it crosses the line of being weird and is super funny. The line I am talking about is the feeling where a person is only half committed to a bit or joke and it feels awkward or confusing. They aren't really in it so neither are you. But when people cross that line and get to a place where they are fully committed no matter what kind of bit or joke it is, then it becomes very humorous. Like *Arcade Craniac* videos, if he wasn't super energetic and emotional, I would barely be engaged or wanting to understand but because he truly is putting his whole soul into this performance and being so ironic, it becomes super entertaining. I want to do this with my comedy. I strive to have the confidence and trust in my humor to be this all in. That is why our idea is to do a satirical parody of these types of videos. The character is so entertaining and polarizing and very different from my real life persona. As I said above I gravitate towards more of a conversational humor so by pushing myself to be outrageous and take up space I think this project will be really interesting. I am excited to try and cultivate a video like the comedians I mentioned above so that I can grow as a comedian myself.

## Bibliography

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“Category:Television Episodes Written by Mindy Kaling.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 May 2021, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Television\\_episodes\\_written\\_by\\_Mindy\\_Kaling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Television_episodes_written_by_Mindy_Kaling).

## Description of Proposed Project

1.) Are you collaborating with others?

Yes, Mia Bassett

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 clickbait youtube videos and content creators in general. We chose this subject because we both found these types of videos ironically funny and entertaining because they are so outrageous. I especially love this humor that makes you question why you like it so much and wanted to try replicating that feeling. These videos are goofy and exaggerated in every possible way and I think doing a parody of them will be really exciting.

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):

- Exaggerism- making little things seem like a super big problem and exaggerating all our actions and reactions
- Hyperbole- Because these videos are very geared towards younger kids who can't resist crazy things, a lot of hyperboles will be used to dramatize
- Parody- our project will be a parody of the different types of videos on youtube and we will use similar tactics as them
- Satire- we are going to use satire to criticize the way these creators make these types of videos. The whole internet is filled with clickbait that is always trying to grab your attention so the target of our satire is how fake Youtube content is.

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?

I am excited for this project and feel that it is right for me because I enjoy the subject matter and I am able to film it and show it to others instead of performing live. I don't think I would do well with the pressure of stand-up and would find myself getting flustered so that is why filming beforehand will work well. I can assure you that Mia and I will get the work done and you will not have to worry about us completing this video to the best of our abilities. Also, I find ironic humor in the types of videos we will be parodying and I think it will be fun to lean into the ridiculousness of it all.

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

Our next step will be to write a script for our video. We will take inspiration from our humorist studies and write jokes and scenarios that target absurd youtube videos with satire.