

Humor Study

Analysis:

The two comedians I chose to research for the humor project are Jimmy O Yang and Bobby Lee. They are similar in a way that they're both stand-up comedians. Jimmy is also an American actor, writer, and producer who is best known for his roles in *LOVE HARD*, *SILICON VALLEY*, *CRAZY RICH ASIANS*, and *SPACE FORCE*. In his comedy shows, he shares his experience in his life as an immigrant from Hong Kong. He uses anecdotes, situational humor, and banter as he tells funny stories of his experience as an Asian American and the uniqueness of his family. Bobby Lee is a Korean immigrant. He's gotten himself in some serious, seemingly soul-crushing mischief, while comedians are often very serious, especially about their craft. The article "The Discreet Charm of Bobby Lee" from UCLA Asia Pacific Center says, "With the drought of Asian American comics on sketch comedy shows to make fun of society, parody other Asians, bring criticism and attention to subjects such as *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Gwen Stefani's Harajuku girls, Kim Jong-il, or Korean soap operas, Bobby Lee is currently the only one in a position to help fill the void." He also includes blue humor as his comedy style. "not quite a class act, but thoughtful, reflective, aware, and genuinely well-intentioned. But kind of gross. In a funny way." Ada Tseng says. From what I have researched about his humor, his comedy often includes jokes and situational humor.



Jimmy O Yang



Bobby Lee

Reflection

My mom always tells me to smile and laugh then any small concerns or fears will feel like nothing. While I was researching these two comedians by watching their stand up comedy, I was smiling and laughing nonstop. Especially because their stories and topics are very relatable as an Asian. I learned the power of comedy, how it can bright someone's day up.

There is this feature about a person who speaks two languages. People tell me that I have two personalities depending on which language I talk with. When I'm talking in Japanese, they recognize how my voice gets lower and sounds more funny because I say funny things in serious tone. However, when I talk in English, my voice gets way higher and sounds like a different person. This is how I discovered how the pitch of voice can change the impression of the story. So I focused on the two comedians voice difference one time. I realized in addition to their voice changes, they change the volume of their voice as well. The emphasis and those small details in their voice makes what they talk thousand times funnier. Moreover, the pause between the phrase was something I noticed. Especially Jimmy O Yang, before he says something funny he pauses and waits for audience to get ready for the funny moment. This is one of his strategy that I find very interesting.

The common thing I find between Jimmy O Yang and Bobby Lee is that they are both unique. They have their own world but still relatable that attracts the audience. Having the balance of uniqueness and relatable topic is such a hard thing to do. However, that is one thing that they both do good in their comedy



I Don't Want You To Take This The Wrong Way... | TigerBelly
Clips with Bobby Lee and Jimmy O. Yang

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Uploaded: Jun 8, 2020

I also found out that they had a podcast together and it is the funniest thing.

What I have found besides their humor, is that I love comedy style where I can relate and that the voice tone and facial expression is almost everything to humor.

Proposal

Are you collaborating with others: Yes - Alice Rennie, Aya Iwata, Jacqueline Lara

What form of humor are you planning to develop?:

- Dark humor
- Comedic Narrative

What is the subject? Why did you choose the subject?:

- The subject is a little kid reflecting on their day in their journal.
- We chose this subject because kids are always associated with innocence and naivety, so we thought it would be funny to undermine/contrast that by using dark humor that most wouldn't associate with a kid.

Which comedic tools are you planning to use and why?

- Dark/black humor
- A big part of humor is bringing forth a new perspective that the audience doesn't expect - and because most wouldn't expect a kid to write or say really dark things we thought it would be the good 'surprising' thing.

Why do you think this is the right humor project for you?

- We're each in one of the electives at Freestyle Academy- and we thought that making a small animated narrative like this where we could combine all our skills from our individual classes would work the best for us.

If we were to get approval:

- The next step would be to plan out the story - essentially, figure out what the kid writes in their journal to describe their day, and what the horrific unexpected things they write are.