

Humorist Study

Part 1: (Analysis)

The two comedians I studied were Tina Fey and James Corden. They both have similar styles of writing, presenting, and overall material but, they both have distinct characters that make them uniquely funny. Tina Fey joined SNL as a writer early on in her career and kept growing since. Once her work became popular she transitioned to a performer on the show. In 2006 she got offered her own show called “30 Rock”, a single-camera show that pays homage to SNL. Her comedy style is very thoughtful and draws on various influences, including physical comedy and improvisation. In many of her SNL skits, she uses silence to her advantage and places her comedic timing in the right spots. This keeps the skits fresh and moving which keeps the audience engaged. Personally, I love all the different characters and personalities she creates. Each one is perfectly done and seems like she put a lot of effort into and research into them. A large portion of her work is parody skits. SNL as a whole relies on current events to engage audiences and lift the mood of the dull world. Tina uses parody to her advantage as she “makes fun” of celebrities, companies, and other news. Overall her comedy and performance work really well which lends well to the projects she creates.

On the other hand, James Corden uses subtle inferences and observations to concave his comedy. James is mainly known for his late-night talk show “The Late Late Show with James Corden.” My favorite part of his show is his regular segment called “Carpool Karaoke.” In this bit, James invites a fellow celebrity to join him in a car as they drive around Los Angeles singing. Past guests include Michelle Obama, Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Julia Roberts, Billie Elish, and many more. During this unique interview, James and the guest throw jokes at each other and banter back and forth. It’s very entertaining and often the humor elevates the bit which as an audience, makes me want to come back again and again. Other than “Carpool Karaoke”, James creates other skits that form his talk show.

Both Tina and Jame use similar comedy techniques like banter and parodies to express their creative sides. But, they have different presentation styles in some ways. Tina is very based on scripted comedy with some but not all improvisation. While James seems to be more improvised based at least with his karaoke bit. Either way, they both get their messages across in funny ways.

(Reflection)

For me, most of the comedy I see is through SNL and clips on the internet. Most of the time if I had to choose between a drama or a comedy I would probably choose the drama but, outside of the internet, most of my theater and acting have been more light and comedic. It is very interesting to play with comedy. There are so many factors that you have to worry about and incorporate into your performance. It's always a challenge to make sure the initial vision you had reads and comedically entertains the audience. But, when you succeed it's the best feeling.

When creating this humor project I would like to experiment with more parody and banter as that seems to be the basis of my group's ideas. It would also be cool to research other techniques like irony and exaggeration to balance and add to the parody and banter. I think it would be helpful to watch more sketches and acts that show the type of comedy we are interested in. I think it will be really interesting to see how everything plays out with my group's project. We all have different styles and inspirations but, in a strange way, I think that they will be very compatible with each other.

In general, it seems that comedy is a way of escaping people and I saw that in both Tina and James' styles. They had positive messages and always brought a smile to my face. Hopefully, my group can bring those same positive messages to our skit. It will be interesting if we can pull off your idea in a unique and funny way but, I think if we put a bit of ourselves and our inspirations into it we should be successful.

Works Cited

-“Tina Fey.” *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service,
<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/pioneers-of-television/pioneering-people/tina-fey/>.

-“The Late Late Show with James Corden Photos on CBS.” *CBS*,
<https://www.cbs.com/shows/late-late-show/photos/1006643/the-definitive-list-of-every-carpool-karaoke/24/>.

Part 2:

Description of Proposed Project

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

Yes, Emma A, Hannah k, Vamp Z

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

We are planning to develop a skit of some sort.

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

Right now our plan is to have a parody satire skit of 2 explorers, and 2 dinosaurs on the hunt for a treasure. It would start with the 2 explorers opening a map with an x-marks the spot on it. They start off on their adventure and after a while, they stumble upon a field of dinosaurs. (We would recreate part of the Jurassic Park scene linked here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJImYh27MHg>)

Then the dinos get into the jeep and they help the explorers search for the treasure. During their road trip, they do karaoke and interview people on the street for directions to the treasure which is a golden chicken nugget. After many people say they don't know, one directs the group to Mcdonald's where they purchase a happy meal, and inside there is a glowing gold chicken nugget. We chose this subject because we think that all of us can add a very comedic element that would enhance the skit.

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):

-Parody: we would use parody when we recreated the Jurassic Park bit.

-Irony: We would incorporate irony in the way we "interview" people on the street.

-Joke: The ending of the skit is a joke, it turns out that the treasure is a gold chicken nugget.

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?

We all seem very happy and interested in our idea. We are all trying to input something that we want to show. We think our idea will be funny but our main hope is that we don't fall behind in filming due to us being gone for the break.

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

If we get approved, we would write the script, then gather props, locations, and a filming shot list.