

## Humorist Study

### ***Analysis***

The humorists I studied are Jordan Peele and Keegan-Michael Key. They are the creators of the popular comedy sketch show that aired on Youtube and Comedy Central. Most of the humor used by the popular comedy icons is based on stereotypes, social issues, pop culture, and everyday situations. The humor techniques that are constantly used throughout all of their skits such as absurdity, exaggeration, irony, satire, and wordplay, to create hilarious scenarios that challenge expectations and provoke laughter. Their most famous video is the East/West college bowl where they are acting as football players playing in a big football game and they mimic the way the players say their names at the beginning of the games. They play football players with ridiculous names, such as Hingle McCringleberry, Xmus Jaxon Flaxon-Waxon, and Dan Smith. The skit mocks some of the creative names that the players have by using crazy names based on their own religions. This shows the improvisation skills and how they can create characters. Another one of the skits that stuck out to me was the black panther skit. They are making fun of the stereotypical Marvel fan who is often overly enthusiastic and knows way too much about the Marvel extended universe. The two characters who Key and Peele are playing are having a face off about who knows more about Marvel. They also make remarks about the racial implications of having a black superhero. The sketch also features a cameo from the late Chadwick Boseman, who was the actor for the Black Panther. Their humor is not only funny but also very insightful. They use their humor to comment on society and culture, and to explore their own identities as biracial men. They are not afraid to take on sensitive topics, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, and violence, but they do so with respect.

Together they make a strong comedy duo. Comparing them as a duo, they tend to bounce humor off of each other. Both of them have an idea of what they are going to do and they commit fully to the part. Not only do they write their own humor, they also act in their own films as well. They have incredibly good on-screen chemistry. Where they differ is what they did after their Comedy Central careers. Jordan Peele went on to create iconic thriller and horror movies such as *Get Out*, *Us*, and *Nope*. You still get to see his comedic side. He often breaks the high tension scenes with comedy and inserts a laugh into his films to calm the audience down. Keegan Michael Key, on the other hand, has pursued a career in acting. He often stars in comedy movies. He acted alongside his Comedy Central co-star Jordan Peele in the comedy *Keanu*, the movie about a gangster cat. He most recently starred in the much-anticipated animated film *Super Mario Bros* where he acted as the iconic Mario character Toad. In the end, both of the stars took their own paths but both created successful paths after Comedy Central. They both continued to push the narrative of race and the effects that it has on people, especially Jordan Peele. All three of his movies are heavily involved with race, especially *Get Out*, which is about an African American who is dating a white woman and she takes him to meet her family who turn out to be racists and try to torment him about his race throughout the film.

## **Reflection**

I use humor in my life because it helps me cope with stress and challenges. Humor makes me feel happier and more relaxed, and it also helps me connect with other people who share my sense of humor. Humor is a way of expressing myself and showing my personality. I think humor is a valuable skill that can improve any situation and make it more enjoyable.

One of the comedy tools that I enjoyed using the most was absurdity. I tend to use it a lot in my day to day life as it is one of my favorite types of humor and it can add a lot to any situation. Say for example you are telling a joke and it begins to get more and more absurd and saying things that have no meaning or but you are making them sound like they are in the correct place is absurd. Key and Peele both use it in the aforementioned East/West college bowl coming up with these ridiculous names that are absolutely non sensical and nobody would ever give a name that that to a child. The best example of this is the player X-Wing @ Aliciousness. First off his name is X-Wing a plane from starwars and his last name is a way to tag in a social media post. Absoltly ridiculous

Exaggeration is a personal favorite comedy tool of mine because it makes everything more fun and ridiculous. For example, when I tell my friends that I ate a whole pizza by myself, they might laugh a little. But when I tell them that I ate a whole pizza by myself in one bite, they might laugh a lot. Exaggeration also helps me cope with stressful situations by making them seem less serious. For instance, if I have a lot of work to do, I might say that I have to write a thousand-page essay by tomorrow. That way, I can laugh at the absurdity of the situation and feel less overwhelmed. Exaggeration is also a great way to express my emotions and opinions without being too direct or offensive. For example, if I don't like someone's outfit, I might say that it looks like they got dressed in the dark. That way, I can convey my dislike without hurting their feelings too much.

Satire is another comedy tool of mine because it allows me to poke fun at the absurdities and contradictions of society and human nature. I enjoy using humor to expose the flaws and hypocrisies of people and institutions that I disagree with or find ridiculous. Satire also helps me cope with the frustrations and challenges of living in a complex and imperfect world. By making light of serious issues, I can express my opinions and emotions without being too angry or depressed. Satire is a creative and clever way of making a point and provoking a reaction from the audience. It challenges them to think critically and question their own assumptions and beliefs. Satire is not only entertaining, but also enlightening and educational.

Humor is essential in my life because it helps me cope with the challenges and absurdities of the world. I use absurdity, exaggeration and satire the most because they allow me to express my creativity and critique the society in a playful way. Absurdity makes me laugh at the illogical and irrational aspects of life. Exaggeration helps me emphasize my emotions and opinions, such as saying that I would rather eat a cactus than watch another Marvel movie. Satire enables me to mock the flaws and hypocrisies of the people and institutions around me, such as making fun of politicians or celebrities. These forms of humor make me feel more alive and connected to others who share my sense of humor. They also make me more resilient and open-minded, as I can laugh at myself and learn from my mistakes. In conclusion, humor is important in my life because it gives me joy, freedom and perspective.

## **Bibliography**

“Key & Peele - East/West College Bowl” Youtube Sep 20, 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gODZzSOelss>

“Key & Peele - Consequences” Youtube Nov 6, 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dWjKkF0Zi4>

“Key & Peele - Auction Block” Youtube Feb 14, 2012

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zB7MichL1k>

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

Yes, Attila Cabute

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

We are planning to create a absurd exaggerated 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 both grew up watching key and peelee and wanted to make a skit and Attila studied Eric Andre and he had made a funny medicine ad and we wanted to make something along the lines of that.

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 want to make a video that uses absurd, incongruity, and situational humor. We intend to utilize them by developing an absurd medicine brand that, if consumed, would render you insane. We are considering making the medication a KFC and Coca Cola marked medication.

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?

Attila and I both grew up watching Key and Peele and we are both students in film and we wanted to make something that could encapsulate all of the skills that we had learned over the year. We dont want to do anything out of the ordinary and want to make something funny yet interesting.

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

Write a script and then beguin to film.