

Humor!

A quick guide to funniness by Emile Michel Hobo!

What does it mean to be funny?

According to Anton Nijholt, there are three key ingredients to humor...

1. An incongruity: something ain't right!
2. Unexpectedness: didn't see that coming!
3. A winner and a loser: humor's at the expense of whom?

But according to this definition, slavery is also a kind of humor, with the slavedriver laughing. Humor shouldn't be in support of psychopaths, so let's add a fourth ingredient, Emile's addition to the sense and sensibilities of humor...

4. Pushing the ethical boundary: no real harm done!

Humor can also make use of direct and second intentions. Humor that's direct, delivers the joke in such a way that what isn't right is contained within the joke itself...

“ The horse neighed at the pig: «'Xcuse me, pig, why do you always make it sound like you're a pig?» In amusement, the pig mooded. «Better?» The pig asked. ”

Humor that makes use of a second intention, delivers the joke in such a way that what isn't right is contained outside of the joke itself...

“ Question: «What do you get when you mate a horse with a donkey?»
Answer (wait for it): «A mule!» ”

Forget about the fact that that only happens when you mate a female horse with a male donkey. Forget about the fact that when you mate a male horse with a donkey, the offspring is called «a hinny».

What's the matter here is, that you expect something not to be right, but the answer is actually correct, which isn't right, so it's unexpected, you're the loser listening to the joke, but no real harm done. That's a clear display of a second intention joke.

So, here's a throwaway question: can you identify the following joke as a first intention or a second intention joke? Check the next page for the answer...

Here's the joke...

“ Question: «What happens when you break the law?»
Answer (wait for it): «You go to jail!» ”

You guessed it! It's a second intention joke, but it's only funny when you did break the law and you haven't been locked in jail even though you were innocent. So there are still a number of criteria to be met.

Anyway, best of luck to you, on behalf of me, Emile Michel Hobo. And don't forget, vary the number of intentions, so the jokes remain unpredictable... Don't just use first intention jokes or second intention jokes...

Above all, remain critical, the best comedians actually have something to say, and it won't be about anyone's haircut, cause that we know by now. Don't make jokes directed at the person («ad hominem»), direct them at a cause («ad causam»).

And that's it, that's all there's to it, the science and philosophy behind humor and jokes in a nutshell!

Signing off as Emile Michel Hobo... Don't forget that name! Or do... I care, but do you?

Bye!