

The Theology of



Is there a relationship between comedy and the divine? (Here you say “Are you nuts?”)

But hang on, maybe there is. Both start with a premise: one, that there’s an all-powerful, omniscient being who watches over the world; the other, that a priest, a rabbi and a gecko would walk into a bar. In comedy, accept the premise and you get a laugh – in religion, accept the higher power and you get eternal life, emotional support and answers to all questions. (This may explain why there are more religious people than stand-ups.)

This talk uses Amy Schumer, Steve Carell, “Waiting For Godot,” Walt Disney and the novel “The Name of the Rose” to discuss whether comedy is fundamentally cruel or empathetic; how religion’s search for meaning has a corollary in comedy’s search for a punchline; how laughter is like religious ecstasy and transcendence; and how to achieve divinity through fart jokes.

Seriously.

Among David Misch’s screen credits are the Emmy-nominated “Mork and Mindy,” the Emmy-losing “Duckman,” the Emmy-engorged “Saturday Night Live” and the Emmy-ineligible “The Muppets Take Manhattan.” He’s also the author of “Funny: The Book” and is a playwright, songwriter, blogger, teacher and recovered stand-up comic. David’s spoken at the Smithsonian, Yale, the Grammy Museum, Oxford University, Austin Film Festival, Actors Studio, American Film Institute, University of Sydney (Australia), Raindance Film Festival (London), VIEW Cinema Conference (Torino, Italy), USC and UCLA. Too much more at davidmisch.com.