

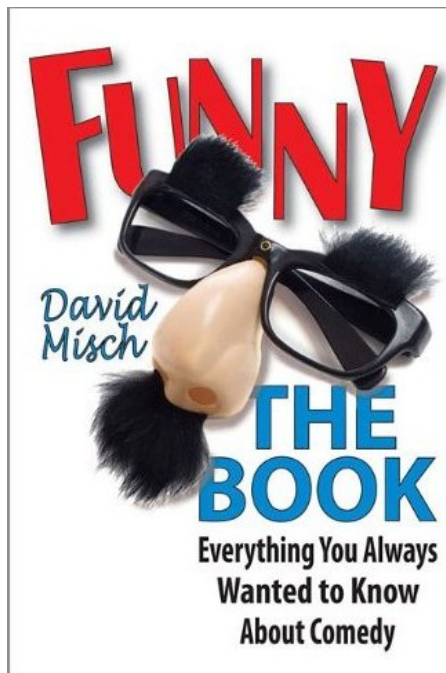
Mid-Manhattan Library
welcomes

David Misch

presenting an illustrated talk

Comedy In Society

Satire,
Censorship
and Swearing



“It takes a serious mind to analyze comedy. It takes a funny mind to appreciate it. David Misch is of two minds.” – Jason Alexander


Wednesday, April 23rd, 2014
6:30 p.m. on the 6th floor

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This multi-media presentation looks at professional humor's role in defining, and defying, society's moral boundaries.

From the satirists of ancient Rome to today's *Daily Show*, comedy has never been shy about taking on the moral issues of its time. However, in satirizing and illuminating society's hypocrisies and immoral behaviors, comedians are frequently accused of "crossing the line." So how do we as a society decide when comedy goes too far? By examining satire, taboos, and censorship, this question is explored.

W.S. Gilbert, W.C. Fields, Steve Martin, the Russian Orthodox Church, Billy Wilder, Monty Python, Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, and two outrageous *Saturday Night Live* sketches written by Sen. Al Franken (D: Minn.) are examined.

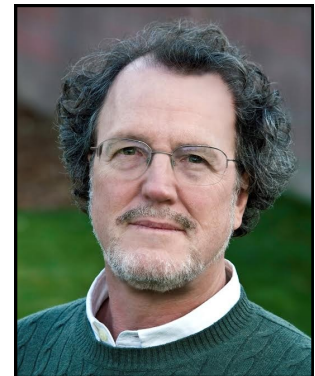
A significant point of discussion will be Mel Brooks' movie (and book and musical), *The Producers*, a touchstone for controversy from the moment it appeared. To some a hilarious putdown of Hitler, to others a horrifying diminution of the Holocaust, Mel Brooks' motives and achievement are hotly debated to this day. Although there will not be definitive answers to these questions, it is hoped the attendees will examine their assumptions and presumptions, and realize that comedy's relationship with morality is as complex and intricate as morality itself.

About the presenter:

David Misch is a writer, creator or producer of programs including *Mork and Mindy*, *The Muppets* and *Saturday Night Live* for NBC, CBS, ABC, HBO, Fox and Disney, among other networks; instructor of musical satire at UCLA and "Practical Foundations of Comedy" at USC.

He has spoken at venues such as Columbia University, the 92nd Street Y, Oxford University, Cooper Union, the University of Southern California, the Los Angeles, Chicago and Boston Public Libraries, and the American Film Institute. He is also a playwright, songwriter, blogger, teacher, and recovered stand-up comic.

Websites: davidmisch.com and funnythebook.com



David Misch



Unretouched Photo

Elevators access the 6th floor after 6 p.m.

All programs are FREE and subject to last-minute change or cancellation.