



Ha!
Aaah!



The Painful Relationship Between Humor and Horror

with David Misch

From 1920's "Haunted Spooks" to "Zombieland," the genre of horror-comedy has never really, you should excuse the expression, died.

Yet humor and horror seem pretty different; one's a pie in the face, the other's an axe in the skull. It's obvious why watching someone being torn asunder would be horrible but why is the endless suffering of the Three Stooges funny? Could there be congruences between funny and fear, snickers and screams, gore and gags, slapstick and slaughter?

Yes.

This multimedia talk proposes – carefully, while remaining alert and well-armed – that the two genres are not mortal enemies.

Using examples ranging from Freud & Kant to Abbott & Costello, David Misch explores how horror and humor share a mordant view of our relationship to pain; an obsession with the human body and its multifarious fluids; and a subtext of death and transcendence underlying the eviscerated flesh and fart jokes.

Among David Misch's TV and movie 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." In addition to "Funny: The Book," he's written "A Beginner's Guide To Corruption," is also a playwright, songwriter, blogger, teacher and recovered stand-up comic, and has spoken at the Smithsonian, Yale, Oxford University, CineStudio Paris, University of Sydney (Australia), VIEW Cinema Conference (Torino, Italy), Raindance Film Festival (London), American Film Institute, Austin Film Festival, Burbank Comedy Festival, Willamette Writers Conference, Walt Disney Studios, UCLA, USC, Sony Pictures and Lucasfilm. Too much more at davidmisch.com.