

From Rochester University's LIFE program

"The Science of Ha!" was so very enjoyable, refreshing and informative, and a great opportunity to relax and laugh at David Misch's good humor and style. It flowed rapidly and smoothly without skipping a beat and kept me totally engrossed the whole time. His timely jokes, anecdotes and film clips animated the narrative perfectly and kept me laughing throughout the ditty about the Periodic Table, which reminded me of something Rossini might write.

He talked about the scientific and psychological basis, necessity and benefits of humor. He also discussed its evolution, from a survival tactic and release of tension and for defusing crises, to today's complex and sophisticated art-form. He discussed its variants, both visual and emotional, and its principles of tension, resolution, misdirection, pattern recognition and surprise, and the inherent nature of the human mind to want to make sense out of chaos, incoherence and randomness.

David examined humor's effect on happiness from deriving meaning and solving the problem of mysterious nonsense, yielding laughter and elation upon comprehension and resolution. It can also expand our consciousness and enable us to learn better and to explore new possibilities by giving us new insights and different perspectives.

He also discussed the different modes and styles of humor as practiced by various comedians, with examples of each. David's skill and knowledge in this arena was fully demonstrated. I plan to get his book to further my understanding and appreciation. I look forward to David's Fall class on humor and horror.