



Evidently 2022's "All About Comedy" wasn't ALL about comedy, since 2025's version contains three classes of (pretty much) all-new material.

"Comedy vs. the Apocalypse": Humans use humor in terrible times to affirm that the purpose of life is to do more than just survive. We'll see how comedy has always laughed at tragedy – from the Black Death to the Holocaust to 9/11 – and how humor can help get us to tomorrow.

"The Secret Life of Jokes": The well-known comedians Sigmund Freud, Immanuel Kant and Thomas Hobbes all had theories about humor, which means jokes are Really Important, not just a way to make someone snort up their milk. From Henny Youngman's one-liners to the epically filthy "The Aristocrats," every joke ever told shows how comedy works, using the same basic components as all art forms: tension and resolution, pattern recognition, misdirection and surprise.

"The Anthropology of Ha!" looks at laughter: what it is, where it comes from and what it means, including: Why most laughter doesn't come from anything funny; How chimpanzee urine proves that monkeys have a sense of humor; Laughter's relationship to danger; Exciting job opportunities in the field of rat-tickling (yes, there's video); Why Artificial Intelligence fails at humor; and how to achieve transcendence through jokes.

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