

JOKE TELLING

FIRST EXERCISE

copyright barnet kellman 2014

A JOKE IS A FUNNY STORY -- one writer puts it this way

“In the structure of a joke,
which is really a mini-story,
there is a set up,
the issue/conflict,
and the resolution,
commonly known as the ‘punch-line’.

copyright barnet kellman 2014

...All this happens at lightning speed
and when done by the greats
is a lovely, seamless ride down laughter lane.

copyright barnet kellman 2014

...The writing and execution of a joke takes
commitment, precision, gut-instinct
and a sense of play.

....making people laugh
takes work.”

Katie Love

copyright barnet kellman 2014

- COMMITMENT
- PRECISION
- GUT-INSTINCT
- SENSE OF PLAY
- WORK

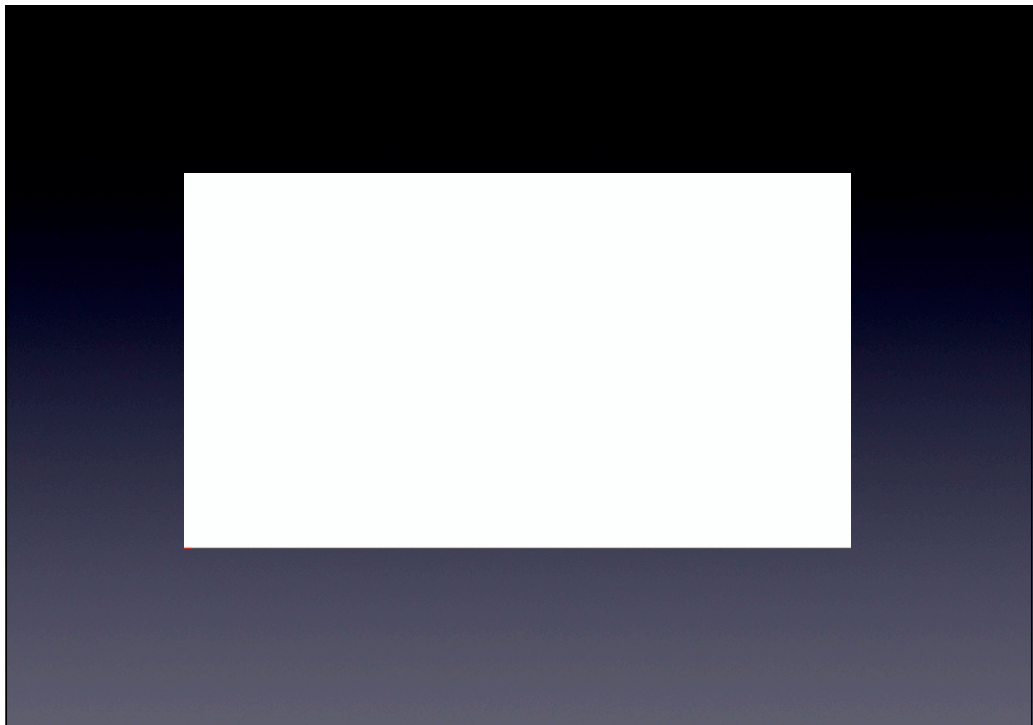
copyright barnet kellman 2014

CLICK TO SHOW -- This class may not be able give you Gut-Instinct

-

But the other elements we will constantly address ---by putting in the Work

Watch this:



copyright barnet kellman 2014

JOKES ARE STORIES

- ROOTED IN REALITY
- ROOTED IN SHARED EXPERIENCE
- DEPENDENT UPON LOGIC

copyright barnet kellman 2014

They are
CLICK 3 TIMES

Stories, Like Jokes,
Must Be
TOLD

copyright barnet kellman 2014

No One Begins a Joke By Saying:

- “This is a Joke about.....”

copyright barnet kellman 2014

JOKES & STORIES

- LEARN TO TELL STORIES BY TELLING JOKES
- LEARN TO TELL JOKES BY TELLING STORIES

copyright barnet kellman 2014

CLICK

Jokes are Structures

- Rules to Break
- Patterns to violate
- Norms from which to Deviate

copyright barnet kellman 2014

JOKES ARE STRUCTURES THEY NEED

CLICK 3 TIMES

RULES - PATTERNS - NORMS --

Joke Structure

- GRAB ATTENTION
- ESTABLISH INTRIGUE
- DEVELOP AND BUILD TENSION
- TURN
- PAYOFF

copyright barnet kellman 2014

Grab Attention

WHAT IS THE FIRST LINE OF EVERY JOKE....?

copyright barnet kellman 2014

“SO...”

copyright barnet kellman 2014

followed by a “What if...” SET UP -- 3 Guys go into a bar...

Create Intrigue through

- INCIDENT
- IDENTIFICATION with CHARACTER
- IDENTIFICATION with AUDIENCE GROUP

copyright barnet kellman 2014

Develop and Build Tension through

- COMPLICATION
- ELABORATION
- MISDIRECTION

copyright barnet kellman 2014

Turn

SUDDEN
CHANGE IN DIRECTION

copyright barnet kellman 2014

of SUBJECT or ATTENTION

and quickly

Payoff

- The “GET”
- The MEANING
- The LEAP
- The REVEAL (Revelation)
- The PUNCHLINE

copyright barnet kellman 2014

CLICK 5 TIMES

“... With the punch line, comes a paradigm shift.

That one line forces you to reinterpret all the facts that went before, presenting an entirely different picture of events, with a different internal logic.”

jimmy carr only joking



copyright barnet kellman 2014



copyright barnet kellman 2014



copyright barnet kellman 2014

...the setup of the joke
makes you make an assumption,

copyright barnet kellman 2014

that you find out is erroneous
in the punchline....”

Jimmy Carr

copyright barnet kellman 2014

It's a bait and switch – you think you're following one story logic.....the pleasurable surprise is that there's another logic that fits the circumstances..that you missed! That alternate logic usually reverses the expected logic. the more absolute that reversal (180 degrees) the funnier the story.

Jokes Invite PLAY

copyright barnet kellman 2014

The Safety of Play Allows us to explore the most difficulty subjects.
They are like Games...
the great designer Charles Eames said
“Toys and Games are preludes to serious ideas”

“Toys and games are
the prelude to serious
ideas.”

Charles Eames

copyright barnet kellman 2014

“In play fighting (young animals) learn without danger to use all the muscles they will later use in real fighting.”

Max Eastman

copyright barnet kellman 2014

Jokes and Games Designed to be Played

copyright barnet kellman 2014

We PLAY A JOKE on Someone

Games and Jokes Designed to be Shared

copyright barnet kellman 2014

they are really a **SOCIAL INTERACTION**

Comedy is Social

copyright barnet kellman 2014

It is based on our common understand of how the world works and what it is like to be both separate from (private/individual/"singular") and inextricably bound to the earth, the human race and a specific tribe and neighborhood of this planet.

What are the Obligations of a Joke?

copyright barnet kellman 2014

- Commitment
- Partnership
- Transaction
- Salesmanship

copyright barnet kellman 2014