**CSE456 Story For Animation**

**What is Physical Comedy?**

Today we’ll look at some methods and examples of physical comedy and try to apply them to personality – the personalities of the  characters in your stories. It is thought that all comedy is rooted in fear and this is important to note as our fears are not all the same and are not felt with the same intensity.  Please keep these principles and methods in mind when your group illustrates your story with what you feel to be the best possible personality traits that will also entertain an audience. You will need to keep in mind that if comedy is based on fear and we all fear different things, then many things will be funny to some people and not to others. \*Also,  you will be looking at your story so many times that it will probably not be funny to you anymore at all in which case you will need to rely on the use of many of the principles covered in class today.

Please take notes on the video you are about to see with an emphasis on applying these methods and principles to your specific character in your group story.

**Comedy -- Methods** (used to strip people from their normal dignity and make people laugh)

1. **Slapstick and Violence.**

Seeing objects in unexpected places or with scale differences sometimes makes us laugh.

2. **Magic and Surrealism**

A magician uses sudden appearance and disappearances and transferring one thing into something else to entertain and amuse us.  Speeding up action is the most typical method, making the motion look mechanical.

Anything is possible (especially with animation) to fish out the right images from the depths of our unconsciousness.

**3. Imitation and Parody**

Most effective comedy pokes fun and makes a mockery of authority

One person imitating another is funny -- if the imitation is exaggerated then it is called Parody and includes ridicule of the person being ridiculed. If the imitation is related to a famous person it is considered parody.

**We’ll be focusing  on Comedy through Personality**

\*\*\* Combinations of all of the methods illustrated in this video are used by comedians to create a character with personality. Comedians and actors communicate this through their body language. This is what  your group needs to work on for your individual story. This is not just a series of gags and requires extreme precision in execution on the part of the actor/animator. Listen carefully to the group feedback for your story pitches and address it as best you can.

Some methods to create character include:

**Mime and Body Language**

\*Studying Films without Dialog

**Jokes with Attitude**

We need to be sure to promote the skill of the “performer” ( your character in your story)  and his attitude while performing.

There are different kinds of comic attitude. They include the comedy of stupidity, where the character knows less than the audience, an aggressive approach where the character possesses a lack of consideration for others and a crude attitude which is comedy of vulgarity and social embarrassment.

**Notes that might help you with your story**

“The comedian is an alien -- like us but different.”

The verbal comedian is often smarter. That’s because words communicate on a different level.

Many of the comedians who use physical comedy look like adults with the emotional maturity of an infant.

Often comedians using physical comedy have difficulties with objects. Physical comedians constantly make mistakes.

The comedian using physical comedy is clumsy and inept but keeps on doing things when a normal person would give up.

The comedian using physical comedy doesn't understand social convention or has no consideration of others.

**\*We must identify with the social attitude to find it funny.**

**Please add your notes and recommendations for your group and TA  below:**

**CSE456 Lab Critique**

**Student Name:**

**Date:**

**Contact Information:**

**Regarding the interaction of your group to complete projects 1-4 for CSE456:**

1. What was successful? What worked well? What are you most proud of?

2. What needs to be corrected or improved? What is not successful

3. What would you do to improve or complete the final project if you had more time to work on it?

4. What remaining questions, concerns or comments do you have about the final project?

5. Was the collaboration with your colleagues in the class successful?  If not, how could the collaboration be improved?

**CSE 456 Lecture Critique**

**Student Name:**

**Date:**

**Contact Information:**

**Regarding your Assignments 1-4  for CSE456:**

1**.** What was successful? What worked well? What are you most proud of?

2. What needs to be corrected or improved? What is not successful?

3. What would you do to improve or complete the project if you had more time to work on it

4. What remaining questions, concerns or comments do you have about the project?