Japanese Humor in Films and Media

William Wolfkiel

Scale of humor

- Most humor lies on this scale, but can shift depending on how long you see it
- Animated things are usually a segment more to the left than if they were live

action

Boring	Funny/passively funny	Punchline	Shock humor (weirded out)	Uncomfortable

Bizarreness

- Something being so bizarre that it acts as a punchline.
- To Americans this can be shock humor on a level that is closer to being weirded out, especially when seeing the joke with no context.





Follow

修正になんでも応えてくれるデザイナーさん が上司からの「チーズ感が足りない」という ダメ出しに全力で応えてくれた結果...ミルク シーフードヌードルの広告がこのような形に なりました!



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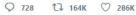
















Nudity

- In Japan, nudity is a step more acceptable than in the US
- Hot springs and public baths are common, and people are usually naked
- Kids being naked is pretty fine, even to show. Family often bathe with kids
- In this context, it's private, but can be more nostalgic than funny





https://youtu.be/KUOwbcdZozQ?t=21

 Most Americans would find this video shocking, which could slide into being uncomfortable or funny depending on the person watching it

Partial nudity like this isn't uncommon in variety shows and comedies like

Maiko Haaaan!

https://youtu.be/4OA 9I0JtIE?t=36

Japanese (nudity)
Boring Funny/passively funny

The fact that they were dancing

Punchline



Americans
Shock humor
(weirded out)

Uncomfortable

 If anyone saw this in theaters, there were audible gasps when you saw the dick

Japanese Americans Seeing his dick moment

Boring Funny/passively funny Punchline Shock humor (weirded out)

If we saw his dick longer than a short moment moment

Uncomfortable

Shinchan

- Kids show
- He says



"Elephant! Elephant!" and waggles his dick

He also moons people, but we kinda have that in US

Boring	Japanese (his nudity) Funny/passively funny	Hee hee, elephant trunk Punchline	Americans	
			Shock humor	Uncomfortable

Breaking Social Norms

- Japan is a much more formal society
- Outside of films/TV/anime, very little goofing around happens (it would be seen as rude, not funny)
- These media often have characters/a character that acts really informal, and that in itself is comedic

Azumanga Daioh





Relatable

Boring

Teacher is lazy, drives like a maniac

Funny/passively funny

Teacher steals a bike Teacher steals a bike Punchline

Shock humor (weirded out)

Uncomfortable



More cool than funny, except the over the top characters Boring

Japanese

Funny/passively funny

The comedy The comedy

Punchline

Shock humor (weirded out) Uncomfortable

They'd both be rude outside of films/TV

Liveaction

If they weren't over the top, then they'd be seen more as rude than comedic

Because we as

Boring

Americans can act how we want, this behavior is just weird/annoying

> Japanese Funny/passively funny





American Uncomfortable

Punchline

"The teller and hearer must share a sense of cultural context or particular knowledge to judge a joke as non-sense." Therefore, stories are categorized in this section based on the Japanese cultural context.#466 [Errand] (8th place of December, 2010)I asked my 6 years old, 1st grade son to run some errands. Me: Can you go and buy some apples, potatoes and cucumbers? Do you think you can do that?Son: Yeah, I'm fine.Then he came back from shopping.Son: They weren't there, so I bought some radishes, onions, and egg plants!In this story, there is no good reason for the boy to buy radishes, onions, and egg plants instead of apples, potatoes and cucumbers in the Japanese context. The boy only picked random items at vegetable shop. The point is that he just bought nothing his mother asked for. However, I must admit that this story might make some sense in different cultural context, therefore it may not be non-sense otherwise."

"A common scene in dramas is the sudden appearance before guests of a family's younger son totally naked, to the embarrassment of the family, particularly elder sisters. In these scenes the boy's genitals are not censored."

Bibliography

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