



MONDAYS
11:00AM - 12:30PM

in the Aceman Lounge

Free for members.

Non-members: \$5.00 at the door.

INSTRUCTOR: RAN KEREN



Ran is an agronomist turned sociologist who was drawn to the study of comedy, leading him to research political comedy and satire for his PhD dissertation.

He published articles on television comedy, satire, and political cartoons, and currently teaches at Alexander College.

There are many ways to connect to Jewish culture, identity, and history; for Ran, it's humor, as when we share a laugh, we share a world.

OCTOBER

5

From Vaudeville to Cinema:

We open with Jewish comedians who grew up in Vaudeville - the most popular form of entertainment at the turn of the 20th century. We discuss some of the ways the Vaudevillian tradition carried over to the big screen. With a focus on several comic icons of early cinema.

OCTOBER

19

From Radio to the Small Screen and the Birth of the Sitcom:

Before television, radio was big, and no one in radio was bigger than Jack Benny. We will watch some of Benny's work, his adaptation to television, and how he integrated Jewish themes and humor into his show. We also watch and discuss The Goldbergs, another radio show adapted to TV and considered to be an early template for sitcom.

NOVEMBER

9

Cinema Comics:

We will watch video clips and discuss some of the greatest Jewish comedians who shaped – and continue to shape – comedy on the big screen, including: Mel Brooks, Barbra Streisand, Rob Reiner, and Jerry Lewis; “May the Schwartz be with us.”

NOVEMBER

23

The Small Screen:

We focus on Jewish creators and comedians who pioneered new forms of comedy during the second half of the 20th century. We watch and discuss works by Norman Lear, Larry David, Lorne Michaels, Fran Drescher, Garry Shandling, James Brooks, and... “Yada Yada Yada.”

DECEMBER

7

Stand-up Comedy:

We will watch and discuss some of the most iconic Jewish stand-up comedians, including Lenny Bruce, Joan Rivers, Sarah Silverman, Jackie Mason, and Amy Schumer, and see why Rodney Dangerfield said he “gets no respect.”

DECEMBER

14

Political Comedy and Satire:

Jewish comedians pioneered the marriage of humor and critique, creating biting political comedy and satire. We will watch and discuss some of the prominent Jewish comedians who have defined this field, including Mort Sahl, Abbie Hoffman, and Jon Stewart.



Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver

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