

Damian Sclafani – Genre Shmenre Response Assignment

One of my favorite television genres is comedy. Comedy has risen to popularity in television shows due to the nature of television suiting it better. My analysis on comedy will look at different aspects on the shows in this genre like components, convention, and creativity. Most of these aspects are standardized now due to how common of a genre comedy has become, as presented by Smith.

The first aspect in standard comedy films and television shows are the components that exist in the show. The biggest component a comedy show can have is its characters. This component can often be the biggest difference between comedy shows. Comedy shows will often have a cast of characters that make an entertaining dynamic. The cast of mains characters along with side characters are often the biggest part of these type of shows. Another big component of comedy shows is the setting. Other than the cast, the setting is more often the component that defines a comedy show. The setting used for a comedy is the build-around that the show must commit to for the remainder of its existence, therefore defining the show. The setting used in the show will often define what situations the characters are put in. The cast of characters the comedy show uses along with the setting it takes place in are the two biggest components of a comedy show. That is why these factors have been standardized to have an entertaining dynamic of characters in normal or average situations.

The next big aspect in comedy films and television shows are the standardized conventions theses films and shows have. The standardized conventions of a comedy show are often what is most recognizable about these types of shows. A standard convention of these shows is that they typically make any average situation enhanced to be way more funny to the viewer. Basically, they will take a typical group of friends and enhance their personalities enough

so that it's comical. This convention has been used in many popular television shows like The Office and Brooklyn Nine-Nine. In both of those shows, the cast of characters is the same standard conventional type as I just described. Along with that, they both take place in average situations like a standard office job or a police precinct. Another convention typically used in these types of shows are that they are episodic. This allows the show to wrap up nicely to allow the viewer to not have to put their full attention towards the show to still enjoy it. These are just a few of the conventions that standard comedy shows use.

With the components and conventions set for comedy shows, the producers of these shows get access to be creative with these shows. As Smith stated, the components and conventions of a genre allow for the producers to create some creative shows using these components. Comedy is no exception to this. The conventions provide a sense of normalcy, which allows each different show to be diverse while still keeping the same audience. For example, the show, Brooklyn Nine-Nine, has an episodic format. However, it has serial elements that persist throughout the seasons as well. Therefore, it breaks the normalcy and still does it in a way that makes the viewer want to see it as well; it keeps both formats, episodic and serial. This aspect of creativity allows for character development to stick around throughout the shows existence rather the conclusion of each episode never being mentioned again. It adds this unique aspect to a show that the viewer can still grasp with ease.

In conclusion, through the use of components, conventions, and creativity, comedy has become one of the more standard genres in television shows along with films. It uses the components to establish aspects of the typical conventions the shows should have. Then, it uses the creativity to enhance the show and make it something different from the normalcy established.