For audiences both young and old, Anime has proven to be a fruitful medium for comedy. Artists have taken advantage of the vivid imagery and dynamic movement to create works unimaginable in other, more limited forms. Just as action anime have given audiences some of the most visually stunning and viscerally engaging television moments in recent memory, comedy anime have produced some of the most absurd and memorable gags ever broadcast.

The widespread acceptance of comedy anime in the states follows the adult animation boom of the 90’s, with American series like the Simpsons and South Park setting the stage for more visually and conceptually complex works out of Japan to be accepted by western audiences. Now, audiences the world over can delight in the go-for-broke silliness of series like Space Dandy and Tonkatsu DJ Agetaro.

Space Dandy is something like the lovechild of a space opera and a frat comedy. The show follows the titular Dandy as he traverses the universe in search of rare aliens, which he hunts for fun and profit. Along for the ride are his faithful sidekicks Meow, an anthropomorphized man-sized cat creature, and QT, an obsessive compulsive robot who speaks entirely in autotune. Each episode sees our crew of heroes narrowly avoiding mortal danger at the hands of an evil empire, of which Dandy seems blissfully unaware: he’s more focused on the buxom waitresses employed at the aptly named intergalactic restaurant franchise, “BooBies”. The tone of the series is decidedly absurd, with stakes of universal importance essentially shrugged off in favor of the next crass-yet-self-aware joke. The puerile humor represents a knowing wink to the audience and a commentary on the culture of anime as a whole. If you’re looking for a coherent plot or heartfelt emotion, you will be sorely disappointed by Space Dandy; but if a joke-a-minute outer space romp with a bit of a meta edge sounds like a good time to you, look no further.

Tonkatsu DJ Agetaro follows the misadventures of Agetaro, a hip-hop obsessed teen who works in his family’s Tonkatsu pork shop and moonlights as a DJ. If this sounds like an unconventional premise for an anime, that’s because there’s nothing conventional whatsoever about this show. Each episode features Agetaro learning hard earned lessons about the music industry, butting heads with rival DJs, and communing with the ghostly spirit of his hip-hop idol, Big Master Fly. DJ sets and dance battles are treated with the gravity of epic battles of global importance, and each new bit of wisdom from Agetaro’s mentor, DJ Oily, is like a revelation from on high. Matching the playfulness and whimsy of the storylines is a homespun aesthetic which is a welcome departure from the labored artwork of more traditional anime- the frames have the amateur charm of children’s drawings. If you need a break from the relentless seriousness of our times and would like to cut loose and maybe even nod your head a little, Tonkatsu DJ Agetaro is the show to check out.