



On Humour : Its Nature and Place in Modern Society

Michael Mulkey



This is a wide-ranging investigation into the nature of humour and its place in present-day British and North American society. From dirty jokes to feminist cartoons, from dinner-table wit to situation comedies, Michael Mulkey examines the principles behind our sense of humour. Mulkey argues that humour is designed to produce incongruity and internal contradiction and as a result is normally kept separate from the serious side of life. Paradoxically, however, it is this very separation which enables us to use humour for serious purposes. Mulkey explores the interplay between humour and seriousness in the dynamics of personal interaction, in the operation of formal social structures, in the political processes of democratic societies and in the commercial production of mass culture. On Humour contains detailed analysis which should interest not only sociologists but also psychologists, social anthropologists, linguists, political scientists, students of womens studies and the mass media and the general reader interested in the peculiarly human phenomenon of humour.

- [On the Nature and Proximate Cause of Insanity](#)
- [On the Road to Arden \(Classic Reprint\)](#)
- [On God : An Uncommon Conversation](#)
- [On the Probable Origin and Age of the Sun](#)
- [On the Principles of Elementary Quantum Mechanics](#)
- [Onyefulu Obi : Chinye](#)
- [On the Sect of the Freemasons. Encyclical Letter. Authorised Transl](#)
- [On the Pulse](#)