

Analysis

I have always been a fan of comedy, and two of my biggest inspirations in the field have been Monty Python and the Saturday Night Live sketches. Both have been widely influential to many people looking into comedy, and SNL was inspired by Monty Python in the first place. Even though their works can seem rather random and unrelated, there are many methods and ideas shared between the two.

Monty Python might be one of the most famous comedy groups in existence, and there is a very clear reason for that. The group's works, especially their movies, have inspired modern comedy to a great extent. One of the reasons their movies have so much appeal is the ever present satire of films themselves. In *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, not one serious moment is allowed to go on for too long. When filming the movie, the group was eager to put as many gags into the movie as possible. A problem did come from this, as with this method while making the film, as they were worried the audience would be overwhelmed about the rate at which jokes were being thrown at them. They solved this issue by adding jokes that wasted time and didn't add any value in bringing the story forward, like when a tower's guards are ordered to keep an eye on someone, but they are confused about the wording of the order for about 3 minutes. There is no point to this scene, which adds to the satire of the film. The group also liked using black humour, like when the Black Knight fought King Arthur, and slowly lost his limbs, only saig "tis but a scratch".

- Monty python, understatements, caricature, their humour style focused a lot on satire, went on to influence everything from the the simpsons to snl
 - Sought to satirize all of film itself, including many 4th wall breaks
 - Monty python did also focus on class themes at times, making fun of upper class people, which seems similar to what snl skits are about at times
 - A famous usage of understatements and black humour for the group is in the film the holy grail, where the black knight(?) fights and get his limbs severed, and responds with remarks such as "tis but a scratch" and keeps fighting
 - They satirized many aspects of film, like at the end of the holy grail they have modern people mixed with costumed people, as well as point in the film where it cuts to a sort of historical documentary based on the events told in the film
- Snl, unspoken truths, parodies, tend to be relevant to events happening in the world, and was also originally very influenced by monty python
 - Stitches stereotypes together in unexpected ways, such as in one of the elizabeth warren sketched where there are multiple references to rupaul's drag race

- They tend to cover a variety of topics, but a staple (and usually the ones that get the most views) are their political sketches, usually poking fun at things such as the debates held during the primaries
- Also tend to do large current events, such as coronavirus, as they recently did a skit on zoom meetings, which have been talked about a lot in the past few weeks
- They have also done numerous parodies, from film series, such as James Bond, to reality tv series, such as the masked singer.

Reflection

- I like the attention to relevant topics, such as coronavirus, as that is usually where my own personal comedic style tends to land
 - Snl does this, and I like how they used social distancing as a tool to create their zoom meeting skit
 - I also like their combination of stereotypes and such, because that process creates very eccentric characters and scenarios, without making them seem badly written or too embarrassing
- I also like monty python's creative use of props and actors in the holy grail, as it creates comedy instead of hindering it, which is what they were probably afraid of while shooting the film. From the lack of funding leading to reusing actors for different roles to the now famous coconut horses
 - I think this would be a useful technique for me to use as well, because we're in shelter in place, I can't easily go fetch new materials or go to locations to film
 - This also adds a level of personality to their works, and you begin to recognize faces throughout their projects, and they start feeling distinctly monty python
 - A similar thing has happened with SNL acting wise, as they only have access to a limit number of actors, this makes certain people fan

favorites, and helps people get engaged with work, creating longevity in the group

- I don't have a group but I think I could be able to tap into that aspect for my own project

Project Proposal

I will not be collaborating with anyone on this project.

I will be doing a short ~3 minute comedic narrative.

My comedic narrative will be about the experience of hygiene shopping right now. I chose this because it's very current and should be relatable for people in our bubble and beyond it.

I plan on using situational humour, as there is a bit of humour in not being able to buy toilet paper of all things during this time. A few understatements, as I want the main character of the skit to not be too confused or angered by her situation, and just being melancholic. Some unspoken truths, as I want the products the character buys to be overpriced, reflecting how people have been selling hand sanitizer for hundreds of dollars on ebay recently. As well as a bit of absurdism at the end as well, which I will be tying into the overpriced products.

I think this is the right project for me, as humour wise, I've always made the best jokes based on my current situations. I think this project would be an extension of my favorite type of humour, so I think I should be able to execute it well.

My next step would be writing out my dialogue and gathering the props I will be needing for the skit.