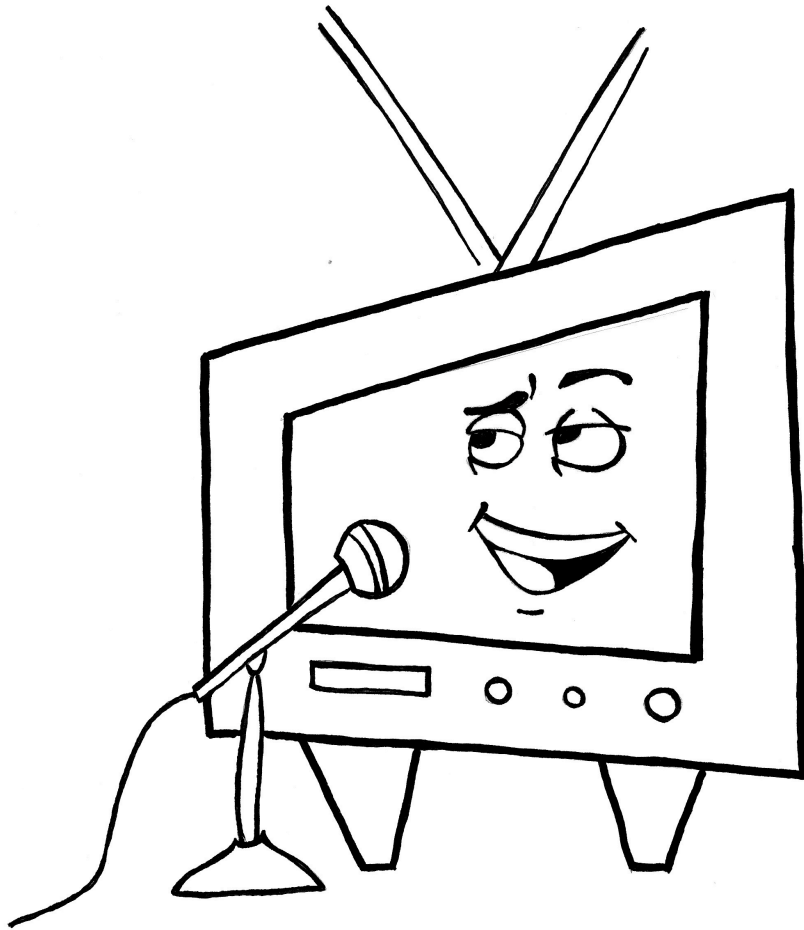


**UW-MADISON
TELEVISION COMEDY CONFERENCE**



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON

FRIDAY, OCT. 14 - SUNDAY, OCT. 16

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

12:05

Featured Speaker: Horace Newcomb (University of Georgia and Director of Peabody Awards), "Looking for the Best Funny: Comedy Program Recipients of the Peabody Award," 4070 Vilas Hall (see attached map)

7:30 PM

Reception: 2027 Madison Street (see attached map)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

(ALL PANELS HELD IN NAFZIGER ROOM, 5TH FLOOR VILAS HALL)

ENTER VILAS VIA THE FOUR DOORS AT THE TOP OF THE RAMP ON THE PARK ST SIDE

9:00 - WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS

Juice, coffee, and cookies

9:30 - 10:45 - COMEDY & THE ARCHIVES

- How do archival holdings other than programs themselves inform television comedy historiography?
- What performance traditions and practices of everyday life have articulated alternative notions of television comedy?

Panelists and Titles:

- Michele Hilmes (University of Wisconsin-Madison) "Sounds Funny: Voice and Comedy"
- Nick Marx (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "Improv at the Archives"
- Horace Newcomb (University of Georgia and Director of Peabody Awards), "What Else is There? Materials Other Than Program Content in Media Archives"
- Lynn Spigel (Northwestern University), "Analog Nostalgia"

11:00 - 12:15 - COMEDY & INDUSTRIAL PRACTICES

- To what extent are new, digitally networked forms of media production and distribution impacting the aesthetics, creative practices, and business of television comedy?
- Using television comedy as an example, how can a focus on genre and creativity add to or reframe our discussions of media industries?

Panelists and Titles:

- Max Dawson (Northwestern University), "'Digital Media Saved Comedy,' and Other Lies the Internet Told Me"
- Evan Elkins (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "Comedy as Cultural Industry"
- David Gurney (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi), "'What You Are About to See Is Nothing Short of a Miracle': Material and Method in Contemporary Media Comedy Production"
- Myles McNutt (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "It's Not Comedy, It's HBO"

LUNCH 12:15 - 1:30

1:45 – 3:00 - BOUNDARIES OF THE ACCEPTABLE

- How has the multichannel environment contributed to regulation and innovation in TV comedy?
- Does post-pc challenge or expand the boundaries of what is acceptable or appropriate comedy on television?
- What methodologies should be used to interrogate contemporary post-pc humor? What are the limits of these research practices?

Panelists and Titles:

- Amanda Lotz (University of Michigan), "Imagining Post-PC Humor"
- Eleanor Seitz (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "Nurturing Ambivalence: Post-PC Parenting in TV Comedy"
- Ethan Thompson (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi), "The Post-PC Comedian"

3:15 – 4:30 - COMEDY & GENDER

- What comedic taste cultures do we ignore as fans and scholars and how is that dynamic connected to politics of gender?
- What is "smart comedy"? For whom? And how do "geek chic" comedienne (Tina Fey, Amy Poehler) interrogate clichés regarding geography and cultural identity?
- How are we to understand the gendered (and raced and classed, etc.) politics of parody in a "post-feminist," "post-racial," post-network age?

Panelists and Titles:

- Ron Becker (Miami University), "Awkward: Straight Guys and Bromantic Anxieties"
- Timothy Havens (University of Iowa), "The Politics of Satire in a Post-Racial, Post-Feminist, Post-Heterosexual World"
- Kyra Hunting (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "Hyphen Funny? Genre Hybridity and Gender"
- Victoria Johnson (University of California, Irvine), "Tina Fey, 'Geek Chic,' or, Why Cleveland Rocks"

4:45 – 6:00 - COMEDY & POLITICS

- If Newcomb and Hirsch's "Cultural Forum" was a helpful idea in understanding how television narratives led audiences to wrestle with political and societal issues in the network era, in what ways can non-niche narratives in the post-network era still serve the same function?
- If television studies' inquiries into audiences is increasingly derived through the lens of fandom, and if political communication still largely assesses audiences through the lens of good citizenship, that is, how TV affects citizen behaviors and attitudes, the question still remains: what do critical-cultural scholars want to know about audience engagement with political material on television beyond fandom or what it does for the state?
- Does television comedy need to break out of established formal expectations, thereby appearing more unpredictable and difficult to anticipate, for it to be "political"? Or is that simply eliding the attraction of the new with truly challenging politics?

Panelists and Titles:

- Amber Day (Bryant University), "Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral? The Slippery Contours of Colbert's SuperPAC"
- Heather Hendershot (City University of New York), "'Flipper and Eve, not Flipper and Steve!': *Parks and Recreation* as Post-Network Cultural Forum"
- Jeffrey Jones (Old Dominion University), "Studying Audiences for Political Television"
- Jeffrey Sconce (Northwestern University), "Vestigial Drama"

7:00P - DINNER AT BROGACH, 7 W. MAIN ST. ON THE CAPITOL SQUARE

- Please bring cash and be prepared to pay by the table.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

(ALL PANELS HELD IN NAFZIGER ROOM, 5TH FLOOR VILAS HALL)

ENTER VILAS VIA THE FOUR DOORS AT THE TOP OF THE RAMP ON THE PARK ST SIDE

9:15 – 9:30 - JUICE, COFFEE, AND COOKIES

9:30 – 10:45 - COMEDY, RACE, ETHNICITY & NATION

- How does television comedy negotiate race, ethnicity, and nation in a neoliberal paradigm in which so-called “post-racial” discourses increasingly predominate?
- How do national contexts influence television comedy production and reception in the digital convergence era?

Panelists and Titles:

- Christopher Cwynar (University of Wisconsin-Madison), “The Formula Bites Back: *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and the Limits of Inflection”
- Racquel Gates, (College of Staten Island/CUNY), “At the Intersection of Black and Funny: Racial Representation and Television Comedy”
- Matt Sienkiewicz (Gettysburg College), “Now I Feel Sad’: The Ethics of Laughing with *Family Guy*”
- Serra Tinic (University of Alberta), “A Common Wealth of Humo(u)r: British Legacies and Canadian Sketch Comedy”

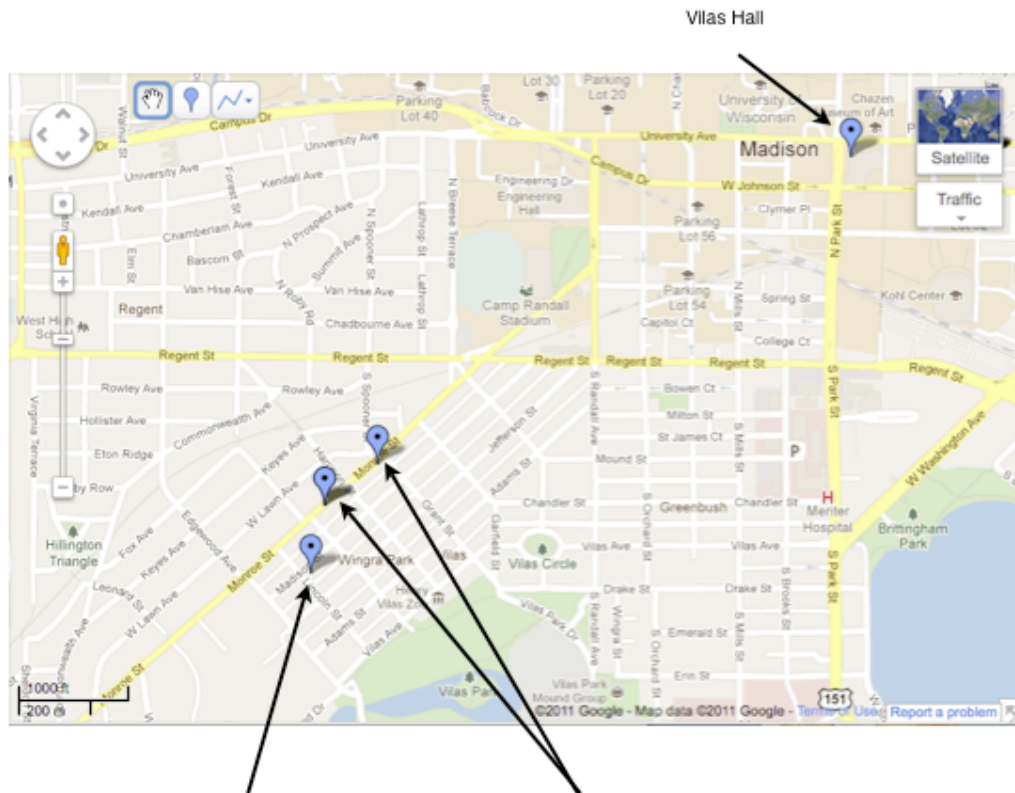
11:00 – 12:15 - MULTI-CAMERA SITCOMS

- How has the multi-cam sitcom figured in the history and identity of the genre?
- How do questions of taste figure into the past, present, and future of the multi-cam sitcom?

Panelists and Titles:

- Christine Becker (University of Notre Dame), “*Miranda* and the State of the Multi-Camera Sitcom in Britain”
- Andrew Bottomley (University of Wisconsin-Madison), “Complex Comedy? *How I Met Your Mother*, Sitcom Narrative, and Televisual Form”
- Elana Levine (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), “Historicizing the Multi-Camera Sitcom”
- Michael Newman (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), “The Laugh Track as Bad Taste”

MAP OF AREA AND RESTAURANTS FOR FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION AT JONATHAN GRAY'S HOUSE, 2027 MADISON ST.



2027 Madison Street (Jonathan's House)
at corner of Lincoln Street
Friday party from 7.30pm

Eating options near Jonathan's: Brasserie V (a
great, though often busy, Belgian place), Pizza
Brutta (wood fire stove nice pizza), & Pasqual's
(aggressively mediocre Mexican)

MAP OF AREA AND RESTAURANTS IN DOWNTOWN MADISON

