Name

Instructor’s Name

Class Information

Date

Andy Kaufman: Stand-up clip

Andy Kaufman's main purpose in this stand-up clip is to deliver absurd humor and play with the audience's expectations. The comic, known for his unconventional style of comedy, showcases his talent for breaking down social norms and challenging the audience's perceptions of what is considered funny.

In the video, Kaufman plays a satirical "foreign man" persona while speaking gibberish and sings the "Mighty Mouse" theme tune with a faltering English accent. He also gets the audience involved by having them make guesses about his home nation. His deadpan face, lively exchanges with the audience and purposeful linguistic misuse define the comic's delivery.

Kaufman's humor is based on the notion of miscommunication and cultural misconceptions throughout the entire video. He brilliantly maintains their interest by routinely confounding their expectations and going beyond the bounds of what is deemed appropriate humor. Kaufman, for instance, adds to the performance's ridiculousness by responding to a query from a participant in the audience by declaring, "I'm from Mars," at one juncture.

Kaufman delivers his lines with a deadpan expression, thus leaving the audience in doubt as to whether or not he is being serious. This heightens the ridiculousness of his portrayal and heightens the fun. By delivering his jokes slowly and deliberately, Kaufman demonstrates his command of comedic timing and keeps the crowd on the edge of their seats.

His dedication to portraying individuals that violate social norms is one of the defining characteristics of Kaufman's brand of comedy. He was renowned for his devotion to his profession and frequently used ornate costumes, accents, and props in his presentations. This is best demonstrated in the video of Kaufman playing the "foreign man" persona, in which he truly embraces the role and gives a delivery that is both humorous and thought-provoking.

Overall, the stand-up performance demonstrates Kaufman's distinctive brand of comedy, which mainly emphasized improvisation, character work, and subverting social standards. He distinguished himself from other comedians of his era and has remained a beloved figure in the comedy community attributable to his humorous timing, deadpan demeanor, and dedication to his craft.

Work cited

Kaufman, Andy. "Andy Kaufman Stand-up Clip." YouTube, uploaded by "Retro Comedy," 31 Dec. 2009, <https://youtu.be/f3UG8jP3A8M>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2023