

Facts for your success

- ▷▷ Remarkably open and taboo-defying look at Jewish humor
- ▷▷ Contributions by many noted comedians
- ▷▷ Explores Jewish humor's appeal to countless people around the world

Laughing What makes Jewish humor unique? Tears



Laughing Tears

What makes Jewish humor unique?



You know it when you hear it – but what actually is Jewish humor? Israeli filmmaker Solo Avital tries to capture its essence in this fearlessly open, prejudice-defying survey of Jewish and Israeli humor. Is it true that Jews only make fun of themselves and not of others? Are the horrors of the past taboo for Jewish jokes? Did you know that Hollywood comedies and American sitcoms would not be what they are today without the Nazi persecution of Jews?

Through a collage of interviews and excerpts of comedy routines, TV star Iris Berben takes us on a lighthearted tour of Jewish humor, from the earthy jokes of the Eastern European shtetls to the stand-up routines of U.S. comedians and the biting wit of modern-day Israel, which can't resist poking fun at its most sacred institutions.

At the center of the documentary is Woody Allen's saying that "Comedy is tragedy plus time." Dealing with clichés and prejudices along the way, Avital and Berben conclude that the past – both ancient and

modern – is of fundamental importance to Jewish humor today, especially in Israel.

There are many startling moments in the film, such as when an Israeli comedian explains that the word "Nazi" can be used positively in Israel today as a synonym for efficiency and punctuality! And it should come as no surprise that the flight to America of so many talented Jewish creative minds during the Hitler regime helped give rise to a humor that is now appreciated throughout the world.

Among the many humor experts who appear in the film are Gil Kopatch, who caused a scandal in Israel for re-phrasing portions of the Torah into modern-day Hebrew; controversial U.S. comedienne Sarah Silverman; Swiss-German Jewish filmmaker Dani Levy; Lewis Black, Hana Laslo and others. We laugh when we discern the truth hiding within a joke; yet the same truth can also make us cry. We're laughing tears – but of mirth or of sorrow?

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Genre	Documentaries
Format	1 x 49' HD
Author	Solo Avital
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