

# Funny Games:

## A Definition for and Study of Comic Video Games

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 Full paper: [tiny.cc/funnygames](http://tiny.cc/funnygames)



### ABSTRACT

- Comic Games are those whose primary and prolonged purpose are to evoke laughter from the user.
- The Comic Game's intent is not to innovate but to use accepted standards as vehicles to carry comedy.

*"There are very few people anywhere who take comedy seriously"*  
 -Orson Welles

### PARODIC



Figure 1: *ToeJam & Earl* parodies 1990s culture with panache.

### SURREALISTIC



Figure 4: Surreal imagery provoking laughter.

### INTERACTIVE



Figure 5: Both games feature wacky control schemes.



Figure 2: A parody within a parody.



Figure 3: Rare mocks the 3D Platforming genre it helped to define.

Name	Developer	Publisher (if different)	Release	Parody	Surrealistic	Interactive
Leisure Suit Larry in the Land of the Lounge Lizards	Al Lowe	Sierra On-Line	1987	Red		
James Pond	Vectordean Ltd		1990	Red		
ToeJam & Earl	Johnson Voorsanger Productions	Sega	1991	Red		
ClayFighter	Visual Concepts	Interplay Entertainment	1993	Red		
Boogerman: A Pick and Flick Adventure	Interplay		1994	Red		
Earthworm Jim	Shiny Entertainment	Playmates Interactive	1994		Cyan	
Beavis & Butt-head	Radical Entertainment / Realtime Associates	Viacom New Media	1994	Red		
You Don't Know Jack	Jackbox Games	Sierra On-Line	1995	Red		
Pyst	Peter Bergman	Parrot Interactive	1996	Red		
Duke Nukem 3D	3D Realms	GT Interactive Softwar	1996	Red		
Conker's Bad Fur Day	Rare		1998	Red		
South Park	Iguana Entertainment	Acclaim Entertainment	1998	Red		
Zombie Revenge	Sega		1999	Red		
Serious Sam	Gathering of Developers	Croteam	2001	Red		
Saints Row	Volition	THQ	2006	Red		
Pain	Idol Minds	Sony Computer Entert	2007	Red		
QWOP	Benett Foddy	Foddy.net	2008			Yellow
Noby Noby Boy	Namco Bandai		2009		Cyan	
House of the Dead: Overkill	Headstrong Games	Sega	2009	Red		
Organ Trail	The Men Who Wear Many Hats		2010	Red		
Retro City Rampage	Vblank Entertainment		2012	Red		
Surgeon Simulator	Bossa Studios		2013	Red		Yellow
Bubsy 3D: Bubsy visits the James Turrell Retrospective	Arcane Kids		2013		Cyan	
Room of a Thousand Snakes	Arcane Kids		2013		Cyan	
Divekick	Iron Galaxy Studios		2013	Red		
Goat Simulator	Coffee Stain Studios		2014	Red		
Starwhal	Breakfall		2014			Yellow
Super Pole Riders	Benett Foddy	Die Gute Fabrike	2014			Yellow
Jazzpunk	Necrophone Games	Adult Swim Games	2014		Cyan	
Octodad: Dadliest Catch	Young Horses		2014		Cyan	Yellow
South Park: The Stick of Truth	Obsidian Entertainment		2014	Red		
Catlatral Damage	Chris Chung		2015	Red		
Sonic Dreams	Arcane Kids		2015		Cyan	
I am Bread	Bossa Studios		2015		Cyan	Yellow
Shower With Your Dad Simulator 2015: Do You Still Shower With Your Da	marbenx		2015	Red		
Soda Drinker Pro	Snowrunner Games		2015			Yellow
Marble Madness 2: Cerny's Revenge: Tournament Edition	Eric Guadara		2016	Red		

Figure 6: Comic Games through the years.