# **Funny Games:** A Definition for and Study of Comic Video Games

Author: Eric Guadara, Digital Game Design MA Mentor: Ramiro Corbetta, Digital Game Design Director College of Arts, Communications, and Design Full paper: 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.



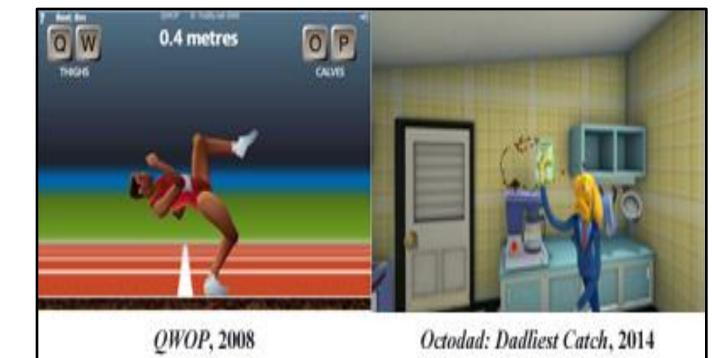
## **SURREALISTIC**



JazzPunk, 2014

**Figure 4:** Surreal imagery provoking laughter.

### INTERACTIVE



**Figure 5:** Both games feature wacky control schemes.

Name	Developer	Publisher (if different)	Release	Parody	Surrealistic	Interactive
Leisure Suit Larry in the Land of the Lounge Lizards	AI Lowe	Sierra On-Line	1987			
James Pond	Vectordean Ltd		1907			
ToeJam & Earl	Johnson Voorsanger Productions	Sogo	1990			
		Sega				
ClayFighter	Visual Concepts	Interplay Entertainment	1993			
Boogerman: A Pick and Flick Adventure	Interplay		1994			
Earthworm Jim	Shiny Entertainment	Playmates Interactive	1994			
Beavis & Butthead	Radical Entertainment / Realtime Asso		1994			
You Don't Know Jack	Jackbox Games	Sierra On-Line	1995			
Pyst	Peter Bergman	Parroty Interactive	1996			
Duke Nukem 3D	3D Realms	GT Interactive Softwar	1996			
Conker's Bad Fur Day	Rare		1998			
South Park	Iguana Entertainment	Acclaim Entertainment	1998			
Zombie Revenge	Sega		1999			
Serious Sam	Gathering of Developers	Croteam	2001			
Saints Row	Volition	THQ	2006			
Pain	Idol Minds	Sony Computer Entert	2007			
QWOP	Benett Foddy	Foddy.net	2008			
Noby Noby Boy	Namco Bandai		2009			
House of the Dead: Overkill	Headstrong Games	Sega	2009			
Organ Trail	The Men Who Wear Many Hats		2010			
Retro City Rampage	Vblank Entertainment		2012			
Surgeon Simulator	Bossa Studios		2013			
Bubsy 3D: Bubsy visits the James Turrell Retrospective	Arcane Kids		2013			
Room of a Thousand Snakes	Arcane Kids		2013			
Divekick	Iron Galaxy Studios		2013			
Goat Simulator	Coffee Stain Studios		2014			
Starwhal	Breakfall		2014			
Super Pole Riders	Benett Foddy	Die Gute Fabrike	2014			
JazzPunk	Necrophone Games	Adult Swim Games	2014			
Octodad: Dadliest Catch	Young Horses		2014			
South Park: The Stick of Truth	Obsidian Entertainment		2014			
Catlateral Damage	Chris Chung		2015			
Sonic Dreams	Arcane Kids		2015			
I am Bread	Bossa Studios		2015			
Shower With Your Dad Simulator 2015: Do You Still Shower With Your Da			2015			
Soda Drinker Pro	Snowrunner Games		2015			
Marble Madness 2: Cerny's Revenge: Tournament Edition	Eric Guadara		2016			

Doom, 1993 Duke Nukem 3D, 1996

Figure 2: A parody within a parody.



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

Figure 6: Comic Games through the years.