



All in jest

Comedians get new stage for their humor

Comedic actor Will Ferrell and his cohorts at **Funny Or Die.com** have started an iPad magazine called **"The Occasional"** (because it's only published occasionally — initial plans call for every two months).

The website is a collection of comedic videos, images and writing.

Much of the content is created by comedians, such as Mr. Ferrell, Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Olivia Munn and Sarah Silverman, and celebrities, such as Eva Mendes, James Franco, Natalie Portman, Paris Hilton and Will Arnett. "Regular" people also submit content to the site. Viewers vote on what's funny and what should die.

The magazine has the same type of material as the website, but it all appears to be created by the pros without the contributions from the "regular" folks. Both the site and the magazine have some really funny bits.

For adult (not necessarily mature) audiences

Most of the humor is centered around popular culture, so, if like me, you're not up on who's hot in Hollywood today, or what's trending on the Web this hour, you won't get all of the jokes. But there's still plenty of funny material for those of us not completely plugged into the 24/7 media blitz.

The humor is aimed at adults. It's not pornographic, but there is lots of vulgar language and the satire is

often inappropriate for — and beyond the grasp of — children. It's what "Saturday Night Live" would be if it was on late-night cable instead of network television.

The electronic magazine costs \$1.99 per issue, or \$9.99 per year through the App Store. In the first issue there are several gag ads, and one actual advertisement that is in the same vein of humor: The real ad is a video of Charlie Sheen driving a Fiat around the inside of his mansion, which is filled with beautiful women partying, while he's under house arrest. It's as funny as a lot of the jokes in the magazine.

Why pay when it's free?

The obvious question is: why buy The Occasional when you can get a similar experience for free on Funny Or Die? An argument could be made that since the content on the virtual magazine has been created by professionals it's better than on the site.

Of course, the problem with that argument is that amateurs can come up with hilarious bits and pros often bomb. Also, comedy is so subjective that both platforms are going to have lots of stuff that different people will either love, hate or be indifferent to. My opinion is that the magazine is cheap enough that it's worth getting for the unique content that isn't available on the website.

The magazine and the site share some features and contributors. Between Two Ferns is a talk-show parody with Zach Galifianakis as the host who conducts extremely awkward interviews with celebrity guests, such as Ed Helms, Jennifer Aniston, Bruce Willis and many

more. Mr. Galifianakis is one of the more notable dual contributors.

Since the electronic magazine only has one issue so far, I'm not sure which of the features will appear regularly and which are one-offs. A few of the features that had me laughing out loud:

■ **Politics 2012** — Rick Santorum's Simple Steps to Making Love to Your Wife.

■ **Dog Missed Connections** — Personal ads between dogs that all end up with the correspondents wanting to sniff or mount various things.

■ **Gossip** — A parody of celebrity gossip columns.

The website has numerous standing features. Just reading the name or premise of some of them is enough to make you laugh:

■ **Drunk History** — Inebriated hosts retell moments in history that are re-enacted by celebrities.

■ **Funny Or Die Movies** — Celebrities star in parody movie trailers such as The Girl With the Tramp Stamp Tattoo.

■ **Bieber Or Die** — Need I say more?

Both the website and the magazine have enough funny stuff on them to make them worthwhile. There's so much content on the site that you can spend a lot of time sifting through bad or mediocre videos searching for the gems. The magazine has enough good material, and is short enough, that you can go through the whole thing without feeling like you wasted much time.

KEVIN O'NEILL is a graphic artist for The Times-Tribune. Contact him at koneill@timeshamrock.com with links to your favorite websites.



KEVIN O'NEILL
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