

Ten Ways to Incorporate Humor into Your Songwriting (and Your Life)

1. Make it unexpected.
2. Embrace the odd.
3. Write what you're passionate about. For seriously funny stuff, write about what really pisses you off, then step back and make merciless fun of your opponents. Then tone it down a hair for public consumption. Advantages: Cathartic, usually funny. Disadvantages: Opponents get pissed off.
4. If you're more comfortable making fun of your own foibles (my personal favorite): the "Strip yourself naked and let the world laugh at your moles" technique works best.
5. Comedy hurts a little.
6. Comedy does have to have some truth to it. But exaggeration can really make it work.
7. Listen to comic songs, but also listen widely to all kinds of music, including "music you can't stand" See Brave Combo: "Disappear"
8. Get a good rhyming dictionary. Get someone or something to give you a beat. Windshield wipers or a broken washing machine will work, or a beat box. Read the entries under fat and fu rhythmically for a warm up.
9. Use five dollar words occasionally in unexpected ways. (Tom Lehrer, The Therapy Sisters, Emily Kaitz, Mark Graham)
10. Slapstick also works. (Spike Jones, Weird Al Yankovic)

Check out my attempts at humor at www.marilynrucker.com. : D