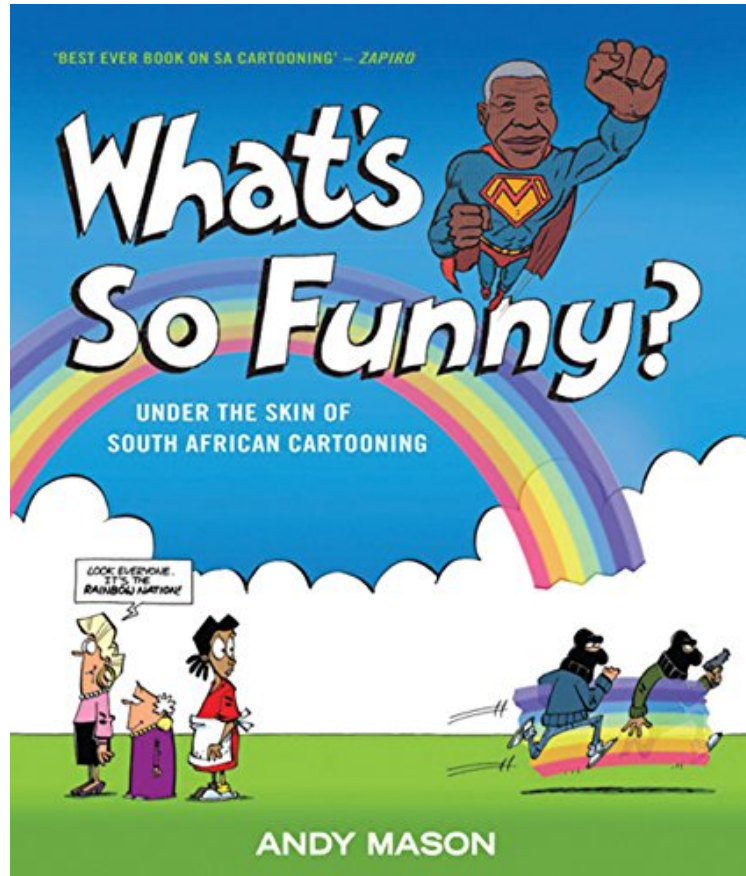


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What's So Funny?: Under the Skin of South African Cartooning

Andy Mason

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Andy Mason : What's So Funny?: Under the Skin of South African Cartooning before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What's So Funny?: Under the Skin of South African Cartooning:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating Book! By cartoonista This book is extremely well written and gives both a history of South Africa through cartoons and very complete information about the current cartoon community. Mason knows his compatriot's well, gives the reader a lot of insight into the social climate of South Africa through cartoons, as well as thorough bios of a broad variety of very talented cartoonists. There is a LOT of artistic and satirical talent among South African cartoonists, well worth exploring. And a lot of attention is paid to Zapiro, aka Jonathon Shapiro, a cartoonist / activist who has had significant impact on the political landscape there and gained international attention as he continues to irritate the political community. A great read.

Andy Mason embarks on a fascinating journey through the history of South African cartooning, tracing a vigorous lineage of satirical art that begins in the colonial period and continues unabated to this day. For hundreds of years, democratic societies have set aside a space the jesters space where satirists are given license to taunt and mock the rich

and powerful. This tradition has survived the bitter struggles of South African history, and the ongoing encounter between pen and sword continues to produce powerful, sometimes agonising images of a nation battling to come to terms with its own identity. Told with an autobiographical slant and based on interviews with most of South Africa's top cartoonists and satirists, *Whats So Funny?* provides a unique glimpse into the world of our visual jesters, how they go about their work, where they find their ideas, and what drives them in their frenzied pursuit of the next laugh.

About the Author ANDY MASON is a cartoonist in his own right (N.D.Mazin), has written several articles on the role of cartoons in South African culture and society, and was the consultant editor on *The Mandela Files*. He has set up the Centre for Cartooning, Illustration and Book Art (CCIBA) to be attached to the faculty of Arts and Human Sciences at the University of Stellenbosch, where he heads the Centre's Cartooning and Comic Art Unit. He is also currently teaching cartooning at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.