



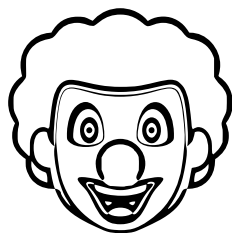
House Rules Game Show

By 



A light, delicately scented,
slightly touched *Game Show* in
the public domain for adult fun
seeking punters of all ages.

Suitable for group sizes 5 to 100,
for any occasion.



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Questions Answered

Why Public Domain?

It's a simple idea. Some 🧐 told some guy who told some other guy who remembered he once heard all about it years ago in the pub, way, way back in 1903. The 🧐 said that he had been given the plan by some old guy in a 🏠 but that may be difficult to believe. The 🧐 left a copy of the game plan in a brown paper bag on the counter as he left the bar, and said, have fun with this. So this show is absolutely in the public domain. Not wishing to disrespect the 🧐 -

Have you heard of this game before? A version of it has probably been doing the rounds since, like, forever. Maybe there were cave dwellers playing with coloured pebbles. Perhaps the Romans had a version of it (political satire was a big thing back then) or maybe it was a party game played in underground churches when the bishop wasn't looking.

If I Want to Perform This Show?

Face it. You're a 🧐 and there's no shame in that.

As a 🧐 to a 🧐 let's be direct.

Are some logos and artworks forbidden in your version of *House Rules Game Show*? Probably. Anything that is identifiable as a government or even corporate logo, or identifiable person displayed without permission, or without context for fair dealing / fair use exceptions or in the public domain, will not be a fun way to start your game.

What About Nipple Clamps?

If you choose to perform the sample game, maybe you might wonder.

In the event that there is concern about bizarrely inclined persons wearing government uniforms or just flashing badges and getting all flustered, you might ask yourself, is there an election on, and do you live in a democracy?

The general rule among the free is that you may exercise your right to express your own opinion, no matter how banal, and sell dinner theatre tickets while you're about it.

You can most certainly sell tickets to dinner theatre where paying guests can say whatever they like. You could probably do this any time all year around, but check if your local authorities maintain a stock of nipple clamps first.

It's a mad world. If you're not feeling up to going fully public, you can play at home, among friends, alone in private ... or at church 🧐. Or just perform a game without all the pointy bits.

Last checked, in any modern democracy world wide, you can say whatever you want as long as it is not oppressive, divisive, patently untrue, foolish, racist, fraudulent, petty, disrespectful or despicable and most importantly that there is no risk that anyone will disagree with you, any time you want.

The standing rules of the governing body responsible in your domain may differ.ⁱⁱ





Suggested Venues:

- private living rooms
- licensed premises
- boardrooms
- club halls
- outdoors in the sun
- online
- fallout shelters

Suggested Audiences:

- any group looking for live interactive participatory role playing entertainment
- corporate and agency role play for those difficult to reach areas
- war gamers (after hours)
- fishmongers



Who is Jolly Joker?



Joker is Speaker of the House of Cheer.

Joker is bizarre, but grounded. Sensibly, gently wild. A stickler for the rules, which are probably made up.

Joker will do no harm.

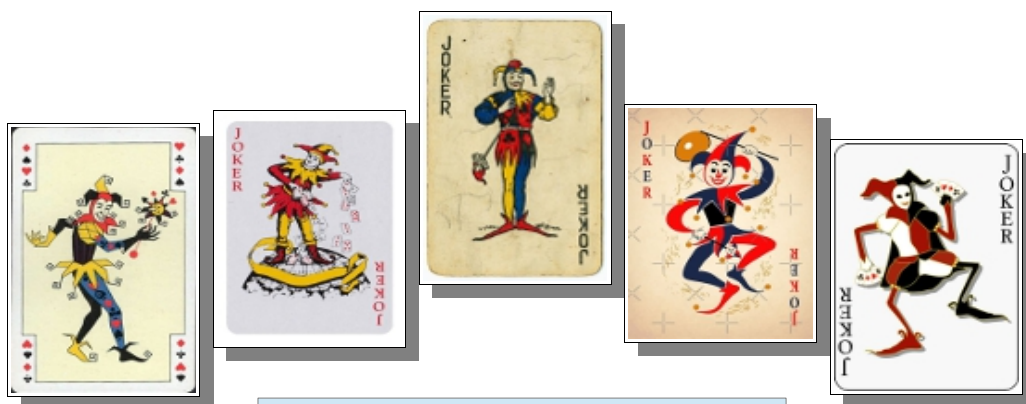
Joker is a little arcane – there's ancient magic in and around *Joker*.

Everyone knows what *Joker* is but no one really knows who.

Anyone can be *Joker*. Sometimes, *Anyone* is.

Is *Joker* some kind of Time Lord? Does it matter at all what style of costume *Joker* deigns to appear? Are jelly-beans in *Joker's* right hand pocket, bullshit in the left? Does *Joker* wear a wizard hat?

Only *Joker* knows. And *Score*. And probably Inland Revenue.



some popular Jokers over the years

Joker's Business

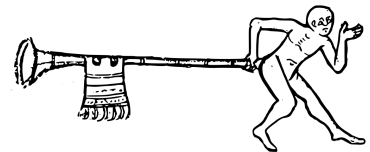
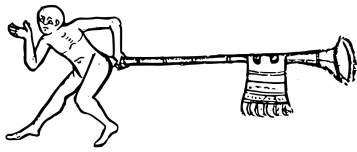


Money, what is it good for? Your answers may vary.

If a money matters to you, please take consideration of the following:

- *Joker* has a helper, *Score*
- *Score* has a hat
- *Score* has an account with an online ticketing 🎫 agency
- *Score* has an excellent relationship with the owner of an establishment
- *Score* will accept any form of agreeable barter
- *Score* loves ♥💰¥€\$ currency
- *Score* loves ~~little~~ **massive** lumps of precious metals
- *Score* will settle for anything within reason
- *Score* sometimes is *Joker*





Game Plan

Requirements

- A pack of playing cards, or two or more packs if the audience is large.
 - If *Joker* is working alone, *Joker* will be busy.
 - If *Joker* can divide responsibility with *Score*, that's good for everyone.
 - If the audience is large, *Score* might be two or more performers who might respond in unison to *Joker's* questions directed at them.
- *suggest*: Stack the deck with multiples of high rank cards.





Game Action

Assume that the *party planners* and *promoters* have done an adequate job getting the audience to arrive with a vague understanding of what is expected of them.

Some among the audience may be arriving in costume, ready to fully embrace their roles.

My, you are an eager 



What costumes?

Is some form of theme costume required for entry?

The theme might be historical, like an era of *Black Adder*, or futuristic, like any space opera unnamed for copyright reasons.

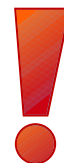
It won't matter to *Joker*, *Score*, or the *party planners*, if audience come dressed as whomsoever or whatever they want, within reason. The *party planners* might set a theme, but *Joker* and *Score* are flexible.

Questions!

For *Joker*, *Score* and the *party planners*. Don't you worry.



Now remember! In the event of an earthquake, fire or other emergency, everyone needs to know where to go and what to do. Have fun with this. It's serious, but better remembered if you can make a little humour. Besides, this part is important. More on this later.



Our audience have been encouraged to contribute intelligent observation to the *House Debating Chamber*, so scoring points for themselves and their team, or to otherwise exercise their right to team building public flatulence in a healthy, wholesome fashion.



Food and beverages are served within the *Debating Chamber*. Now that's magic.

Joker or *Score* will greet the audience as they arrive at the *House* and usher them to their tables within the *Debating Chamber*.

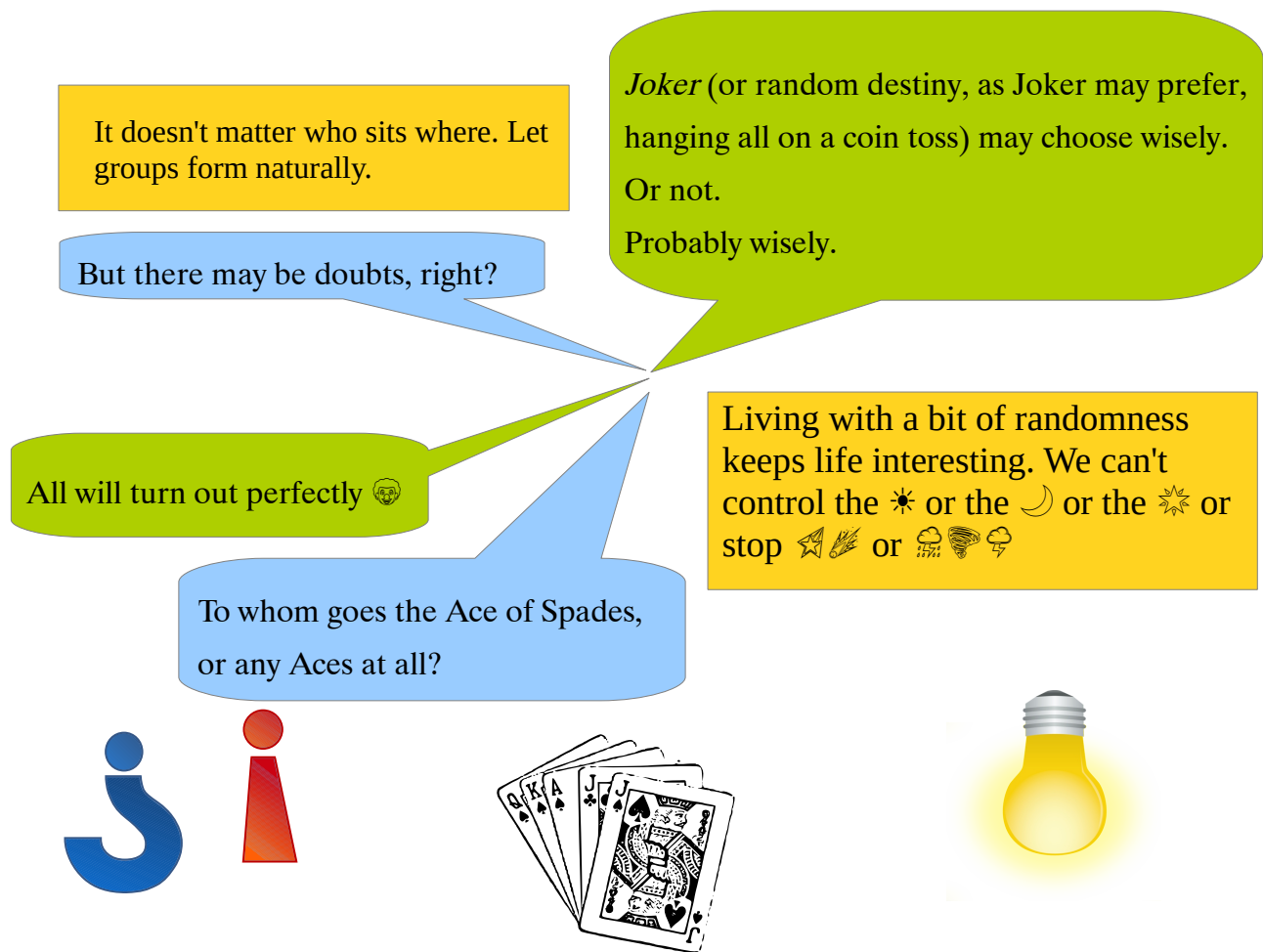


Joker and *Score* give out cards “randomly” to guests as they arrive, or, if *Joker* is particularly adept with card handling tricks, wait until everyone is assembled and present cards with a flourish.



How amazing it is that the *King and Queen of Hearts* are given to the ones dressed most convincingly for the part?

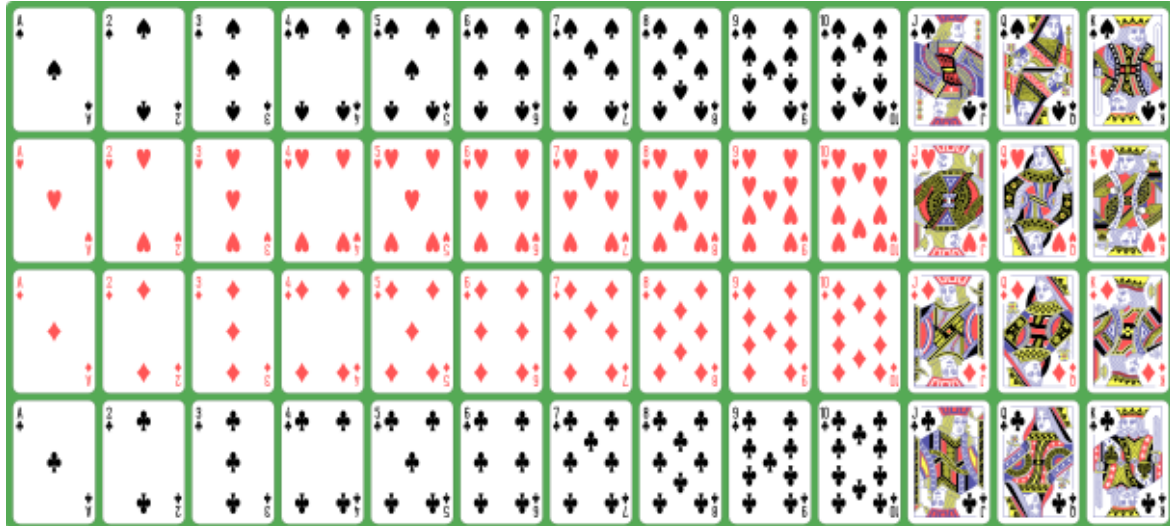
To the *Kings*, the *Kings*, to the *Jacks*, the *Jacks*. Or not. To *Score* goes the blank white card.



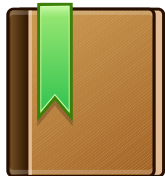
- *suggest*: Rather than use a coin, how about use three coins and perform a reading from the Yi Jing ☯?
- *suggest*: Read from a Tarot Deck 🃏?
- *suggest*: Select a text from one of the great ancient books of 🕯🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠, or a more modern one.
- *suggest*: Perform the ancient rite of the Wholesome Peeling of the Carrot.



- *suggest:* If you have access to a printer, you can print out royalty free cards from here -



Game Rules



More Game Elements
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- 1 Secrecy is important - key roles are assigned to key cards.
- 2 The Word of *Score* matters more.
- 3 *Joker* trumps *Score* but does not.
- 4 Follow the *party planner's* lead.



Example Game Plan ⁱⁱⁱ

Just in case you're a bit short of ideas of your own, here's a sample game plan gifted by 🧑🏻

Warm Up 0: *Joker's Choice*

Everyone has there own favourite group warm up. Be free.

Warm Up 1: Glad Hand

Let's practice some necessary game skills. All in a circle, or within circles of suit, or at table if that's most convenient, look to the person to your left. On a signal from *Joker* or *Score*, without looking away from the person on your left, try to touch hands (or elbows) blindly with the person on your right. Points for those that succeed effortlessly on first attempt.

Warm Up 2: Liar's Contest

As if *Members* need any practice. Who can tell the barest bald faced lie with a straight face? Points for guessing if is truth or lie. But can we trust any *Member* at all?

Warm Up 3: Nice to Moot You

All at table now, sitting, or while milling about moving to tables, *Joker* and *Score* will encourage *Members* to introduce themselves to each other and take this opportunity to reintroduce themselves, while instructing that it is time to form a *Government*.

It's My Party

Largest suite rules alone or in coalition. The *Governing Party* shall elect a *Prime Minister* and fill all key *Ministerial* posts. What posts? Let the *Governing Party* decide. Other *Parties* will appoint *Shadow Ministers*. If after a little while 🗳️ no *Party* can be declared the winner then a new *Free Ride Party List Election* is called – or rather, *Joker* will reissue cards or otherwise stack the deck. Do this twice if need be. If still no result then *Joker* may decide to appoint a *Caretaker Government*. Each table appoints a spokesperson and group leader.

suggest: Suits may be encouraged to sit together, but that is not necessary.

Trivial Point of Order

In tables or all together for smaller groups, using a pen or similar as a spinning selector device, as each *Member* is selected they have a rapid fire moment to announce their name and their personal policy intentions before the *Member* directly opposite can interrupted with a *Trivial Point of Order*. Party infighting is of course encouraged 🗣️. Points for most trivial *Point of Order*.

suggest: Special bonus points for *Party* or table that successfully silences everyone in one round.

Breakfast at Bellamy's

After the mayhem of an all night sitting discussing nothing of importance it's time for the superior sustaining nourishment available only for *Members* at *Bellamy's*.

suggest: If wait staff are bringing out food on their own schedule then every opportunity becomes breakfast/lunch/dinner or a *trough slurp* at *Bellamy's*.

Stated with Conviction

After *Members* have feasted, invite the first 5 *Members* who are so inclined to each disclose current and prior *convictions*, and win points for their team. Bonus points for full reversals. Special bonus points for topicality.

If other *Members* are also feeling so inclined, let them speak!

Score, give them all a point.

suggest: *Convictions* may be interpreted as beliefs or as you first imagined 🗣️

Maiden Speech

What would be your first speech if you had an opportunity to perform before the cameras in an institution as venerable as (*name of venue*) representing a government in exile under threat of alien invasion / biological assault / natural disaster?

- Give each volunteer 10 seconds to score for their team

suggest: What did she or he say? Was it your first time too?

Hat & Song

A *Member's hat*, or lack thereof, is special. Each *hat* has a story. Welcome to share! Bonus points for staying in game, in character.

While a *Member* is upstanding describing their *hat*, it may be considered to be an appropriate --- or possibly deliciously inappropriate --- time to sing a song or otherwise display meaningful (or meaningless) creative talent.

Joker and *Score* will preserve a *Member's right* to entertain, even if pre-recorded. Points given to all for some reason or other. *Bonus* points for live performance. *Extra Special Bonus* points for pre-rehearsed ensemble presentations. No points lost if entertained. All forms of cultural expression, real or imagined, will be upheld by the *Speaker of the House* (*Joker*) and a *Member's right* to self expression in this segment will be protected by the *Acting Sergeant at Arms* (*Score*). However, *Members* displaying members will be expelled from the *Debating Chamber*.

Indeed, forsooth, at any time while the *House* is in session a *Member* may request of *Joker* (who is *Speaker of the House*) permission to sing, recite or otherwise perform a *waiata* (song) on behalf of their *Party*, but only once. Unless *Joker* changes the rules.

suggest: *House Rules Game Show* might roll on for two or three days with a *slumber party* if the performances are engaging enough, interspersed with ample supplies of victuals from *Bellamy's* of course!

suggest: If *Joker* and *Score* are going to be around for more than 20 minutes and the *Party Planners* have arranged for at least some of the show to be live streamed or recorded as a pod cast, then why not accept sponsorships, and promote craft beer, emergency ration packs, getaway packs, portable emergency power packs and the like. Ask your regional *Civil Defence* office if you can display their logo and promote their materials. Is there a craft beer named *Apocalypse*?

suggest: Local rules, local pride, top town. Is there a songster among the audience who has a tune, old, or new, that's so imbued with resilience, local history, local love, local pride that it's fairly dripping?

suggest: *Party Planners* – reach out to everyone in your region, make an event of it, be sure to extend an invitation to every cultural group in your area.

suggest: Set your game in colonial times.

Insider Trading

What are the chances of any of the *Members* being caught out in a game of whispers? Of the three cards laid out on the table, which was the true gold? See who is the first to reach for it 🕵️

Sell the Crown Jewels

Score, who is *Acting Sergeant at Arms*, is not impressed. Give each team a minute or two to privately debate how they can flog off the crown jewels and earn a tidy profit (for themselves). Secrecy is required. Hushed voices, no paper trails, and be wary of snoopers. Each team then announces their plan and might maybe win a point, or not.

Is there any dissent? Is it safe for dissent to manifest? Is there a *Secret Policeman* in the *House*?

House Rules

Joker, as *Speaker of the House*, will inform *Members* that the penalty for getting caught doing mischief has been downgraded from the traditional head on the block and hot pike up the bottom to a more modern mild battery with a flaccid balloon.

Snap Election

At a secret signal from the jocular *Speaker of the House*, for seemingly no reason at all, or for a good reason if there is one, the *Prime Minister* announces a snap election. Has the *Prime Minister* been drinking? Everyone out of your seats!

On the Hustings

Music plays, everyone must mill around, glad handing, kissing babies, pretending to *really really care* about all sorts of stuff. If there's a larger audience observing *House Rules Game Show* now is a good time to send the *Members* out into the wild to meet them. Make *promises, promises, promises*.

Election Results

Some *Members* may wish to switch roles for this, or invite some of the audience to participate as *media hacks* announcing clearly *bogus election results*.

Hung Parliament

It's a well hung Parliament. When the lights go down, then up again, who is discovered with whom slightly dishevelled on the *Speaker's Chair*? Bonus points for a credible excuse, double bonus for explaining why it was not *Oliver Cromwell*.

Creative Accounting

Around the *Debating Chamber* awash with *Tax Collectors, Lawyers, Accountants and High Priests* there is bound to be a bad egg, or are they all rotten? It's time to release the *Budget*. Give each table a sheet of paper and make sure they still have a pen. Let each team declare where all the money has gone. Remember all those promises so recently made?

Voting a Pay Rise

It is hard work, hard, hard, hard work being a public figure on the take. All that effort to declare conflict of interest best avoided. It takes immense energy, so much more than peanuts can provide to conceal shares in a private trust. To speak nothing of the stress of transferring them to a spouse on an offshore haven. The free travel, and myriad of other benefits accrued through being a public servant trading in state secrets are just not enough. It's time for a pay rise! Will the *House* rise in unison and so vote by a show of hands?

Bishop Buddha Iman

One of the *Jacks* rises to present themselves as the *Perfect Priest of the New Age*. Together with the other *Jacks* they present the new improved *Holy Text for All Nations* generated by a psychotic *Artificial Intelligence* working to rule. Keyword is *Artificial*. What, no bites? Carry on.

Let the House Divide

A conscience vote on the correct way to butter toast.

News Flash!

The *Aliens* are coming. Many years ago at *Spy Station Waihopai* signals from outer space were intercepted, and kept secret, for decades. Now it is common knowledge and many persons are installing home made antennas in random places to intercept these signals while asking their pet domestic animals how to interpret them. Not surprisingly, cats and dogs often disagree, except at dinner time or when it is cold outside.

suggest: Ask one of the audience or a participating *Member* to read the above news flash.

suggest: Ask if anyone has heard from the *Aliens* and please do tell us all what do they want?

Tin Hat Conspiracy ^{iv}

Each *Member* is given a section of *tin foil* by *Joker* and asked to make for themselves a *Tin Foil Hat*. At the same time *Score* is giving out the *Jab*. Refusing the *Jab* is not an option. Prizes for best *Tin Foil Hat*. Points lost for successfully refusing the *Jab*. Double points lost for pointing out that the largest winners in the *Jab Economy* are those with a vested interest in promoting the *Jab*. *Triple points lost* if examples of special interest *Jab Economy Gains* are given, such as fellow *Members* who own shares in *Jab Technology*.

Crossing the Floor

Aces cross the floor. Speech! Order! The *Aces* form their own *Party*. Will the *Government* fall? *Ace of Spades* calls for *impeachment* of the *Prime Minister*. What reason? Do the *Aces* need a reason? Better think of a reason quick before the *media hacks* invent one.

State of Climate Change ⌚

As the music ^v plays, *Members* must scramble to think of ways to deal with each threat as it is announced in turn. *Spokespersons* give media releases and accept bribes. Government action results in *dilemma*. Government inaction results in *dilemma*. Other *Members* ask difficult questions. Questions are ignored. All protest is silenced. *Score* is listening, giving bonus points for policies that further entrench privilege, and for appearing to help the disadvantaged, of course. *Joker* keeps time and sounds the alarm whenever, giving less time for each activity in turn. Those left standing without a secure *Seat* in the *House* are out of luck.

- 🕒 Alien invaders
- 🕒 Pandemic
- 🕒 Zombies
- 🕒 Earthquake
- 🕒 Tsunami

Joker Presents Score with The 🔑

Score is somewhat unhappy, is just kind of a bit disconsolate, so rather slightly yet noticeably unhappy to receive *The* 🔑. *What is the key for, what does it signify?* Play a little guessing game. There is no correct answer. What do you think?

Passing the Buck

Give out balloons. Prize for first balloon pop on blow up race. Then, with more balloons ready, line up and race to pass these *bucks* across *party* lines without touching the *floor*.

Other Stuff

All performers have their favourite fills. Always carry a bag of tricks.

Members Be Seated

Leave the losers standing. But, hey, they're friends, the rules don't matter, right? A quick show of hands and all resume their seats.

Prize Giving

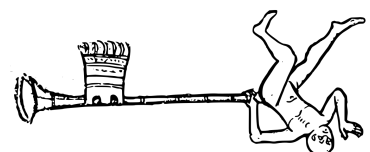
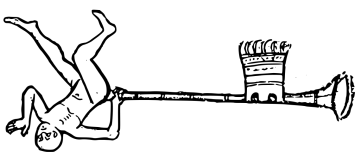
Prizes for best dressed, most convincing, etc. And, of course, another *pay-rise* for all *Members*.

Moot is Dissolved

Joker dissolves the *House Moot*. And it's off to *Bellamy's* for a (potentially) imaginary toast, then a quick round of *Rocky Horror Time Warp* for those who remember (*Joker* and *Score* can lead if everyone is having fun) and then we're all together safe and happy at (name of establishment). Perhaps it is time to dance.

Responsible Hosts

Joker and *Score* pack up and head out to prepare for the next gig, but do share a gentle word about responsible drinking as they head out the door -



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TLDR

Go for it. Rip it, splash it, dunk it, share it, do it. But it is not yours to deny to anyone else. Have fun and let all enjoy. Earn through ticket sales or barter. It is given to share, for anyone to enjoy, for anyone to build from, just as it is built.

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Change Log

1.0 (August 2023)

Original version, no changes.





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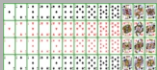
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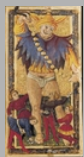
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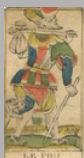
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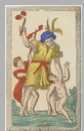
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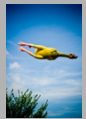
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i About

The genesis of *House Rules Game Show* goes back to 1997 when produced as part of a live recorded political satire show for Auckland regional television, called *Polyticks Poke - Live at Kitty O'Briens*, Executive Producer Rhys Jones, Project Director John Carlaw, featuring the late, great Les Andrews.

<https://www.nzonscreen.com/profile/rhys-jones>

<https://www.nzonscreen.com/profile/john-carlaw>

<https://www.nzonscreen.com/profile/les-andrews>

The show was influential enough to help secure the last season of *McPhail and Gatsby*, iconic comedians of the era who specialised in political satire.

The gentleman producer behind *Spitting Image NZ* had been sued out of business through (ab)use of Parliamentary Privilege. The producer met with him in his new tiny studio, where he was filming a children's show with Suzy Cato. He graciously warned of the perils. The relief of grass roots community comedy is a necessary cathartic stress release.

TVNZ executives had been invited to witness *Polyticks Poke - Live at Kitty O'Briens*. David McPhail was in the audience, a family friend of his was production PA, and one of the *McPhail and Gatsby* former writing team was working on the cooperative project.

The last practical engagement for the team behind *Polyticks Poke* was *Polyticks Poke Paintball Tag - Left vs Right*, in 1997/98 which received positive expressions of intent from four or five Auckland MPs to participate and a confirmation of intent from TVNZ news to record the event. At that time, being short staffed, and uncertain if any of the performers would turn up, it was decided to cancel. Until the removal of public access to the parliamentary email archive a Google search would reveal related correspondence.



On the Hustings



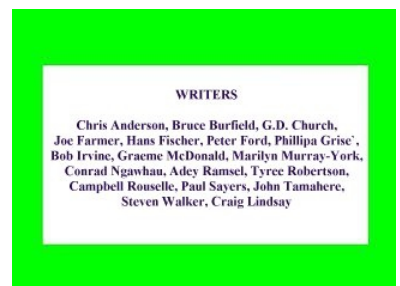
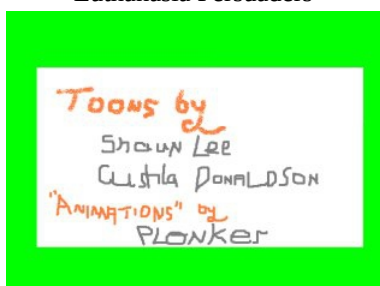
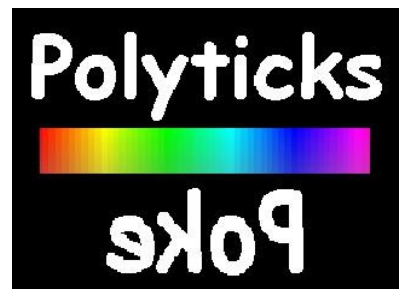
Les Andrews



Audience reaction



Euthanasia Persuaders



ii Political Satire as a Revenue Earner

Part of the fun in performing or participating in a show similar to what is described above may well be the freedom that the format allows for individuals and groups to express themselves by means of harmless role playing.

- Archetypes are fair game, but individuals and ethnic groups are not. It falls to the *party planners* and to *Joker* and *Score* to make every effort to communicate this to the game show participants.
- Always secure a deposit before you commit to performing any venue. Then at least the party planners (who will be paying for the show) have an active interest in ensuring that the show unfolds as agreed.

A great example of the style of active role playing engagement that is safe, wholesome and probably beyond reproach is the excellent work of Clarke and Dawe (see [Curator's choice](#), below).

For any performance of *House Rules Game Show*, in an audience of at least 10, there might be 1 or 2 or more who will enjoy an opportunity to shine while all the rest, including the emcees, will be thoroughly entertained.

Read the room, respond to audience feedback, and get paid for your efforts.

If there's an audience to serve, then an artist is pleased to perform.

Have fun.

Below are some influential examples of current and historic forays into the shadows cast by the realms of power by common law abiding persons just itching to point out the naked Emperor.



{All wikipedia quotes as at July 2023}

Context

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_satire

Political satire is [satire](#) that specializes in gaining entertainment from [politics](#); it has also been used with [subversive](#) intent where [political speech](#) and dissent are forbidden by a regime, as a method of advancing political arguments where such arguments are expressly forbidden.



Early example c. 446 – c. 386 BC

Aristophanes

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristophanes>

Also known as "The Father of Comedy"[6] and "the Prince of Ancient Comedy", [7] Aristophanes has been said to recreate the life of ancient Athens more convincingly than any other author.[8]

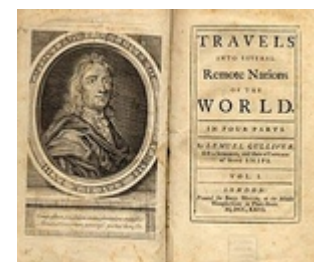


Later example 1726

Gulliver's Travels

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulliver's_Travels

Gulliver's Travels, or *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World. In Four Parts. By Lemuel Gulliver, First a Surgeon, and then a Captain of Several Ships* is a 1726 prose satire[1][2] by the Anglo-Irish writer and clergyman Jonathan Swift, satirising both human nature and the "travellers' tales" literary subgenre. It is Swift's best known full-length work, and a classic of English literature. Swift claimed that he wrote *Gulliver's Travels* "to vex the world rather than divert it".



Recent example 1987 - 92

The New Statesman

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Statesman_\(1987_TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_Statesman_(1987_TV_series))

The New Statesman is a British sitcom made in the late 1980s and early 1990s satirising the United Kingdom's Conservative government of the period. It was written by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran at the request of, and as a starring vehicle for, its principal actor Rik Mayall.



Current example 2008 -

The Juice Media

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Juice_Media

The Juice Media (TJM) is an Australian company that produces contemporary, human rights political and social satire. They are known for their Internet series **Honest Government Ads** and **Juice Rap News**.

TJM has been at the centre of a number of social and political controversies, including the use of the "Australien" logo that is at the heart of a Bill to change the Australian *Criminal Code Act 1995*, as well as their "Australia Day" parody video.

THE JUICEMEDIA

Curator's choice

Clarke and Dawe

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarke_and_Dawe

Clarke and Dawe (also stylized as ***Clarke & Dawe***) is an Australian [news satire television program](#) that originally aired on the [Nine Network](#) from 1989 to 1996 and later on [ABC TV](#) from 2000 until 2017. Almost all episodes feature comedians [John Clarke](#) and [Bryan Dawe](#) engaging in a mock interview, with Dawe playing the interviewer and Clarke playing the interviewee.

The program started out on [ABC Radio](#) in 1987, after Dawe, at the time head of the ABC radio comedy unit, had approached Clarke, who had previously written mock interviews as columns for [The Times on Sunday](#), about bringing this type of comedy to radio.^{[1][2]} Clarke in turn asked Dawe if he could read the questions, finding Dawe had "a supernatural understanding of speech rhythm".^[3]

CLARKE &
DAWE

iii Alternative Game Plans

Same or similar, but set in United Nations or Church Synod.

iv Optional Elements

Alike to all listed *House Rules Game Show* elements any given example for a *game plan* is purely optional. It may be that your customers request this or a similar game element. *Joker* and *Score* are not required to accept the gig.

v Playlists

There's some great music produced over the years. Likely the establishment where *House Rules Game Show* is performed will be licensed to play copyrighted material. Alternatively, plug in to the *party planner's* iTunes or similar account. There are also royalty free recordings available, some of them are really rather good. Always include links to them with appropriate attribution in correspondence with the *party planners* and encourage the *party planners* to share these links with their guests. Good music will help set the scene and help guests to develop their characters before they arrive. Why not employ live musicians and make an event of it?