

Contents

SUSANNE REICHL/MARK STEIN: Introduction	1
I. Laughter's double vision – Humour and cultural ambiguity	
ULRIKE ERICHSEN: Smiling in the face of adversity: How to use humour to defuse cultural conflict	27
ANTHONY ILONA: 'Laughing through the tears': Mockery and self-representation in V.S. Naipaul's <i>A House for Mr Biswas</i> and Earl Lovelace's <i>The Dragon Can't Dance</i>	43
VIRGINIA RICHTER: Laughter and aggression: Desire and derision in a postcolonial context	61
HELGA RAMSEY-KURZ: Humouring the terrorists or the terrorised? Militant Muslims in Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith, and Hanif Kureishi	73
II. Traditions and transgressions – Writing back and forth	
HEINZ ANTOR: Postcolonial laughter in Canada: Mordecai Richler's <i>The Incomparable Atuk</i>	89
SUSAN LEVER: The colonizer's gift of cursing: Satire in David Foster's <i>Moonlite</i>	107
MICHAEL MEYER: Swift and Sterne revisited: Postcolonial parodies in Rushdie and Singh-Toor	117
DETLEF GOHRBANDT: After-laughter, or the comedy of decline: Ronald Searle's critique of postwar Englishness in <i>The Rake's Progress</i>	131
III. Ethnic cabaret – A license to laugh?	
MITA BANERJEE: Queer laughter: Shyam Selvadurai's <i>Funny Boy</i> and the normative as comic	149

VIII

ASTRID FELLNER/KLAUS HEISSENBERGER: 'I was born in East L.A.': Humour and the displacement of nationality and ethnicity	161
--	-----

CHRISTIANE SCHLOTE: 'The sketch's the thing wherein we'll catch the conscience of the audience': Strategies and pitfalls of ethnic TV comedies in Britain, the United States, and Germany	177
--	-----

IV. The language of humour – The humour of language

MARGIT OZVALDA: Worlds apart: Schools in postcolonial Indian fiction	193
---	-----

SUSANNE PICHLER: Interculturality and humour in Timothy Mo's <i>Sour Sweet</i>	207
---	-----

SUSANNE MÜHLEISEN: What makes an accent funny, and why? Black British Englishes and humour televised	225
---	-----

V. Laughing it off – Does therapeutic humour work?

MAGGIE ANN BOWERS: 'Ethnic glue': Humour in Native American literatures	247
--	-----

ANNIE GAGIANO: Using a comic vision to contend with tragedy: Three unusual African English novels	257
--	-----

GISELA FEURLE: <i>Madam & Eve</i> – Ten Wonderful Years: A cartoon strip and its role in post-apartheid South Africa	271
---	-----

WENDY WOODWARD: Laughing back at the kingfisher: Zakes Mda's <i>The Heart of Redness</i> and postcolonial humour	287
---	-----

INDEX	301
-------	-----

CONTRIBUTORS	311
--------------	-----