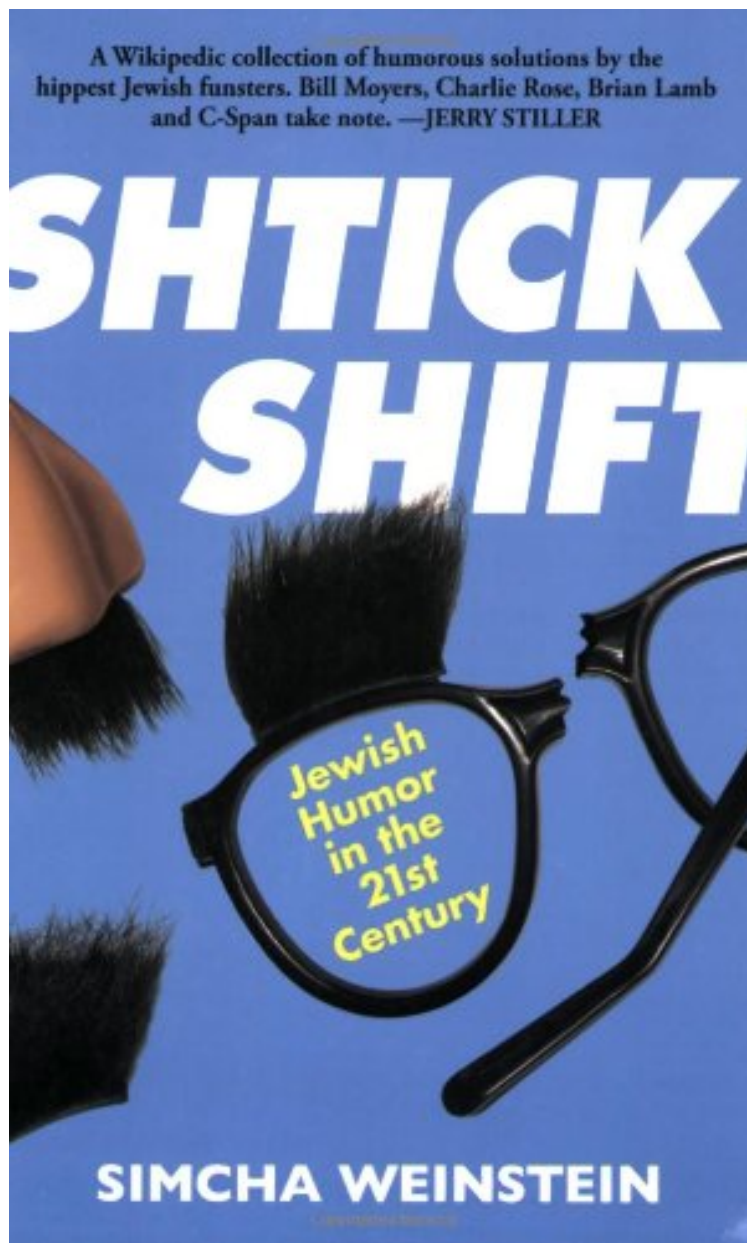


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## Shtick Shift: Jewish Humor in the 21st Century

*Simcha Weinstein*

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**Simcha Weinstein : Shtick Shift: Jewish Humor in the 21st Century** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shtick Shift: Jewish Humor in the 21st Century:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Read! Has its Finger on the Pulse of Contemporary

Humour. By SARAH\_P This was a thoughtful and insightful commentary on the current (and changing) forces in the world of humour and comedy, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. To be sure, I had no idea prior to reading this book that all the hype was true- Hollywood really IS run by Jews! I was rolling on the floor laughing at times, but as the book progressed, there was much more "meat" to it than just a few laughs. It raises some very interesting questions and suggests some inspiring, and challenging, answers. The truth is, none of the topics covered are easy issues to dissect and understand, yet Weinstein does a wonderful job of bringing up all the right points. Thorough and well-written, it is a "go to" for anyone interested in Jewish humour, history, influence, and the like in both modern and past times. A pleasure to read. Highly Recommended. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. GREAT BOOK, GREAT WRITER, GREAT MAN By E. Moed Simcha is an extremely perceptive individual. However this book goes far beyond a visceral reading of contemporary affairs. His ability as a writer lies in the author's capability to deftly deal with the overload of contemporary information. The book goes deeper than analyzing and observing current trends; ideas and ideals are carefully filtered into pointed humorous and meaningful channels that make this book a must read. I am a very critical individual and, yet, I highly recommend it. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Mediocre By bookman Other reviewers seem to love this, but I found it to be too brief and not very in depth. The topic is interesting, and since there are not very many books written about contemporary Jewish humor, it is a must read for that reason alone. But very often, I found that Weinstein makes a point without explaining himself fully or following the point through to its logical end. Also, he refers often to stories from the Bible to support his readings of contemporary Jewish culture, which is fine, especially considering that he is a rabbi, but he glosses over the Eastern European shtetl influence on contemporary Jews. Finally, what annoyed me the most about this book was that Weinstein himself often tries to be funny, and it usually falls flat. Just because humor is someone's topic of critical inquiry, it doesn't mean that that person has comic talent him or herself.

This isn't your zaydes Jewish comedy. The once revolutionary, understated "Jew-ish" and "Israel-lite" flavor of Seinfeld has been replaced by a brutal matter-of-factness that would make earlier generations cringe. Your primer to the ever-changing face of Jewish comedy at the dawn of the 21st century: the new faces, their outrageous routines and their sometimes surprising seriousness about the most de pressing issues of our time.

"A Wikipedic collection of humorous solutions, Bill Moyers, Charlie Rose, Brian Lamb and C-Span take note." --Jerry Stiller "The freshest, boldest, and funniest voice writing about American Judaism today." --Bruce Feiler "The most intelligent, ground-breaking book on Jewish comedy I've ever read." --Jonathan Kesselman "Extraordinarily knowledgeable and insightful about the current state of Jews, humor, and America." --Joseph Telushkin About the Author Simcha Weinstein is an internationally known, best-selling author. His first book *Up, Up and Oy Vey!*, received the Benjamin Franklin Award for the best book of 2007. He has appeared on CNN Showbiz Tonight and NPR, and has been profiled in leading publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Miami Herald* and *The London Guardian*. He chairs the Religious Affairs Committee at the renowned New York art school, Pratt Institute.