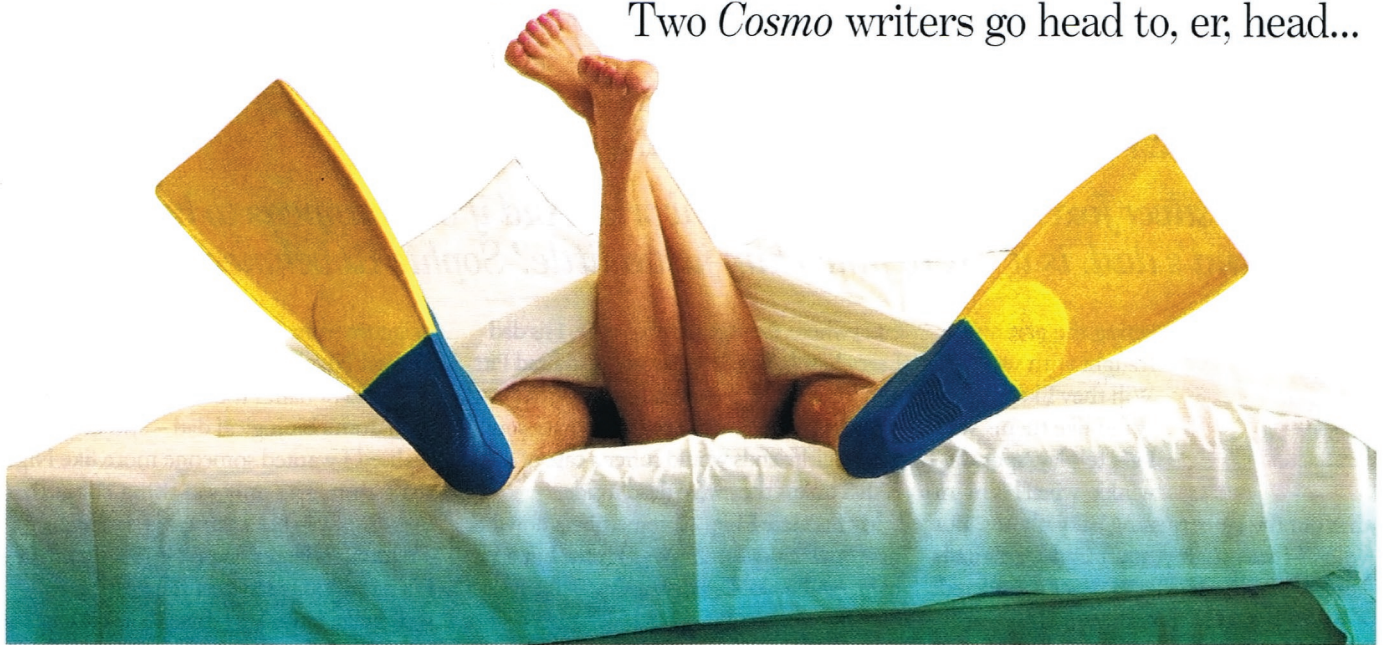


Should sex be FUNNY?

Banter in the bedroom – super-sexy or a major turn-off?

Two *Cosmo* writers go head to, er, head...



YES

**SAYS
SALI HUGHES**

Laughter in sex is essential. Why remove the fun from an activity that practically invented the word? The problem with being serious during sex is that, unless you're fully immersed in it, it all becomes a bit role-play and ridiculous. And while you're lying naked on the kitchen table, staring into each other's eyes and pretending you don't have a cruet set sticking in your bum, you're missing an opportunity for *real* closeness. You need to giggle at these moments. Laughing it off is sexy and, if done from the start of a relationship, sets a precedent for sexual openness. What's more, it avoids any embarrassment when the squelchy noises arrive.

Occasional laughter in sex adds a level of intimacy that nothing else can. My friend went on a date

a few years ago and, in a fit of optimism, nipped into a shop and grabbed some condoms. A few hours later, she and her date had to abandon sex midway because she'd mistakenly bought strong menthol ones and both their bits felt like they'd been squirted with Colgate. Helpless with laughter, they accelerated their relationship by several months. They're married now. And still at it like rabbits.

People who snarl and groan in the sack are not being themselves; they're acting a part. That degree of self-consciousness sucks the joy from the liaison and, ironically, makes it *less* sexy. I'm not saying sex should be slapstick. We all like the odd steamy session, and don't necessarily want to find ourselves in bed with Lee Evans, but a little laughter when sex turns comical is vital. It shows you're comfortable with each other – and it shows real confidence. And we all know there's nothing sexier than that.

NO

**SAYS
MICHAEL HOGAN**

I provided sympathy and lager to my friend Leo* recently as we talked about his new girlfriend Nikki. He had a rare problem: Nikki was *too* funny. Every sentence was a snappy quote. Every email (he sent me a few in exasperation) was packed with puns. She even carried on the stand-up routine in bed.

Nikki soon became 'Quippy'. Exhausted, Leo ended up binning her. You don't want to have sex with Chandler from *Friends*. You want Joey or Rachel, right?

As Woody Allen says in *Annie Hall*, "Sex is the most fun you can have without laughing." Woody's right. Think about your best sex and you won't remember the one-liners – just overwhelming lust.

Sure, laugh us flirtily into bed. Nothing's more attractive than the

ability to make us melt into giggles. And please engage in witty pillow talk afterwards too. Before you know it, it'll be 'sex o'clock' again.

However, sex itself shouldn't be funny. Focus instead on sheer passion and orgasmic pleasure. Anything else will put us off our, ahem, stroke. We'll suspect you're too embarrassed to enjoy it properly. Worse, we might get paranoid you're giggling at our best moves or, you know, 'bits'.

There are quite enough LOLs in the world today. Like 'Quippy' Nikki, everyone's trying to be funny. There are whole television channels dedicated to below-par comedy. Twitter and Facebook bombard us with wacky links.

Sometimes, the ROFLing has to stop, and that time is when the lust starts. So let's keep sex a serious business. Sex doesn't need to be funny, just sexy. The clue is in the name.