

RACHEL BERGER – THE POWER OF LAUGHTER [Keynote 35 minutes]

“If your enemy is laughing how can he bludgeon you to death?” **Mel Brooks**

We have no control over the arms race or the environment, reality is rough, things aren't perfect and you do get hurt, to quote Frank Sinatra, “that's life, riding high in April shot down in May.” But you can't choose denial or fantasy for too long; to do this is to invite madness. Humour, satire and comedy are a manageable middle ground because they give us the opportunity to laugh at reality, one Mark Knight cartoon generally has a more potent message than the entire newspaper. Laughter makes you lightheaded, but it also brings light. It's intoxicating. It works

“She's brave, funny, clever and best of all, human.” **The Sunday Age**

“Berger is a whirling dervish of wit, revelation and philosophy.” **The Sydney Morning Herald**