

# Trickster's contribution to the role of emergent church/alt worship in contemporary culture

By Jonny Baker

Trickster Myths was written by Louis Hyde and has a number of resonances, where trickster is a character found in a number of world cultural myths.

There were 10 tricks that were pertinent to emerging/emergent church

1. To enliven life with mischief.

The church need mischief to keep it fresh and distinctive in the interplay between church and culture - e.g. adbusters.org, the film dogma.

2. Opens the road between heaven & earth

Often the church feels closed off to heaven, which needs to be reopened. This is the role that Christ played. Christ used the stuff of culture to challenge - alt worship is about using the stuff of contemporary culture to challenge. It is about reframing - relocating God in the real world.

3. Crosses boundaries redefining who is in and who is out.

Examples of what is clean and unclean - in and out - images and symbols of God which relates to culture.

4. Trickster creates culture

Renews culture, they are uncomfortable to live with. The church needs to create space for trickster. Interestingly Mathew Fox states that totalitarian states always silence the artists.

5. Trickster disturbs notions of truth & property opening possibilities of new worlds.

We often limit God by our own understandings. Creating an idol - such actions of liberation create new notions of truth.

6. Trickster breaks silence with talk

Saying what no one else is prepared to say - links with Brueggemann's prophetic imagination.

7. Plays with cultural categories

Messing with who is in and out. Challenges the sacred/profane divide. Grates with peoples sensibilities. e.g. Labyrinth at St Pauls Cathedral.

8. Messes with dirt to recreate the world again challenging with what is in or out.

9. Trickster uses whatever is at hand to make a way out of no way.

10. Trickster has the touch of the prophet about them.