

MARTIN LEWIS



“A true Renaissance Man who seems to have done just about everything in the world of entertainment” - L.A. Weekly

Martin Lewis is a multi-faceted player in the spheres of the arts and entertainment. With a fabled five-decade history working in music, comedy, film, stage, TV, radio & books. He has been a cultural alchemist with many of the leading musicians & comedic artists of the last half-century.

In his polymathic career he has been acclaimed for his work as a producer, publicist, marketing strategist, humorist, writer, journalist, political commentator, radio & TV host/contributor, comedic actor, creator/curator of film festivals, talent manager & pop-culture historian. He is noted as an exuberant, passionate operative - with a hands-on dedicated work style. He has also been a longtime respected activist for human rights, the First Amendment and other causes...

Born and raised in Britain, Lewis moved to the USA in 1982. First to New York City and then in 1988 to Los Angeles – where he still resides.

♪♪ “In spite of all temptations – to belong to other nations – he remains an Englishman...” ♪♪

After living over half of his life in America he is proud to be known as:



MARTIN LEWIS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SOCIAL & POLITICAL ACTIVISM

In the 1970s and early 1980s he was an early proponent and activist for the UK's left-of-center *Labour Party* to modernize its then notably archaic marketing and presentation – winning plaudits for his political advertising campaigns from such ideologically-disparate party figures as centrist **Prime Minister James Callaghan** & left-wing firebrand **Tony Benn MP** - and from two future Labour Party leaders: **Neil Kinnock MP** & **John Smith MP**.

After he moved to the USA he found multiple ways to support Democratic Party politicians such as **Bill Clinton**, **Al Gore**, **John Kerry**, **Barack Obama**, **Hilary Clinton**, **Joe Biden**, **Kamala Harris**. He became active as a political commentator and satirist on TV shows on **CNN**, **MSNBC**, **CNBC**, **Fox News**, **Comedy Central's Politically Incorrect** and **HBO's Real Time With Bill Maher**. And in columns he wrote for **Time Magazine**, **Huffington Post**, **Salon**. During the Clinton impeachment he became a fixture on cable TV news defending the President. He was noted for orally lacerating Bill Clinton persecutors such as **Rep. “B-1” Bob Dornan**, **Susan Carpenter-McMillan**, **Larry Klayman**.

In 1982 he worked with legendary human rights activist and US Presidential Medal of Freedom winner, **Ginetta Sagan** and Amnesty International to present the *“Banned Film Festival”* of movies that had been censored throughout the world.

In 1992 he instigated, produced and hosted a major anti-censorship event in Hollywood with famed First Amendment attorney and civil libertarian **Martin Garbus** to promote the proscribed documentary *“Damned in the USA”* which examined the censorship of works by **Robert Mapplethorpe**, **Andres Serrano** and **Madonna** - in defiance of the film itself being quite literally damned and banned in the USA by dint of legal action from extreme right-wing evangelist **Rev. Donald Wildmon**.

As a longtime supporter of women's rights he was a popular host of the annual fundraising benefit show in L.A. for the *Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project* (WRRAP) - at that time the largest national, independent, nonprofit abortion fund in the U.S. He hosted the show on three occasions. He has also assisted in the production and promotion of the shows. In his role as emcee he introduced a large number of America's top comedic talents including **Robin Williams**.

On a primetime appearance he made on the *Fox News Channel* during the height of the 2000 presidential election he generated a furore (“good trouble” - per Rep. John Lewis) by getting the program to air a campaign commercial he had created - ostensibly in support of **George W. Bush** - which was a montage of the candidate very audibly sniffing and snorting during public appearances. Concluding with the caption: *“Paid for by Bolivians For Bush”*!

In 2003 he assisted in the short-notice production on the London stage of a satire protesting the impending Iraq War *“The Madness of George Dubya”*. He secured songs for the show from his friend, legendary satirist **Tom Lehrer** - even getting Lehrer to write brand-new lyrics to his famous 1964 song *“Send The Marines”*

In the 2000 presidential election campaign - after Democrats were attacked for the playing of a Billy Joel song at a rally - Lewis responded by writing an expose in *Time Magazine* about the Bush campaign's frequent use of music by convicted pedophile **Gary Glitter**. The singer had recently been imprisoned for downloading over 4,000 indecent images of children as young as two being abused. The embarrassed Bush team immediately withdrew Glitter's music - publicly declaring *“now his background has been explained to us, you will not hear it again at a Bush rally.”* Notwithstanding that promise, four years later the Bush 2004 campaign started again using music of Gary Glitter. Once more Lewis was the person who publicly exposed Bush's fondness for Glitter. This time making sure that far-right groups such as the *“Christian Coalition”* (sic) and the *“Family Research Council”* (sic) were also made aware that Bush's 'compassionate conservatism' (sic) included giving yet another chance to a sixty-year-old pedophile who had recently been deported from Cambodia because of his gross sexual abuse of young boys and girls.

In 2004, in support of US presidential candidate **Senator John Kerry**, he uncovered, investigated and wrote a major news story - published in *Salon* - that exposed the latest mendacity of *Swift Boat* smear creator **John O'Neill** - the right-wing thug who resurfaced in 2004 trying to complete the character assassination of Kerry that **Richard Nixon** had recruited him to undertake in 1971. (And that had failed then). Lewis researched, wrote & published his expose within 24 hours of the first *Swift Boat* TV ad airing - as his personal 'rapid response' and defense of Kerry in the vacuum of silence because Kerry was trying to take the high road and ignore the smears. On a lighter campaign note, he also instigated & produced the live reunion performance on CNN of Kerry's high school garage rock band **The Electras**.

In 2009 he became a thorn in the side of Republican politician **Chris Christie** when he blew the whistle on Christie's purloining of a **Monty Python** skit for a TV commercial promoting his gubernatorial campaign. Lewis exposed the copyright theft in a front-page *Huffington Post* news story and secured witty condemnations from Pythons **Terry Jones** and **Michael Palin** (*“Christie is obviously confusing me with Sarah Palin...”*) that resulted in Christie constantly having to defend himself from media for the rest of his campaign on the topic of his stealing from Monty Python...

In 2012 - as part of his campaigning work for **President Barack Obama** - he created a commercial ostensibly in support of GOP presidential nominee **Mitt Romney** - deploying **David Leisure** in his iconic role as the fictional **Joe Isuzu** - the pathologically lying pitchman who made outrageous and over-inflated claims about Isuzu cars. The spoof ad won many plaudits from political commentators such as MSNBC's **Chris Matthews** and **David Corn** of *Mother Jones Magazine*.

During the first presidency of **Donald Trump**, Lewis became a frequent guest on TV shows - offering biting satirical commentary. One of his appearances on **Joy Reid's MSNBC** show was viewed by Trump who became so enraged by Lewis' lampooning of him that he live-tweeted his disgust. Lewis was branded *“Fake News”* - the ultimate Trump honorific! At the end of the segment Reid proclaimed: *“Martin Lewis... You are a national treasure... You're an INTERNATIONAL treasure. Actually... you're an INTERCONTINENTAL treasure!!!”*

When Trump was attacked for proclaiming that he was a president like Lincoln - Lewis 'defended' him on MSNBC. *“Trump IS like Lincoln... Lincoln Rockwell - the founder and leader of the American Nazi Party - mercifully no longer with us.”* Following this Lewis was virulently attacked by far-right websites such as **Tucker Carlson's** *“The Daily Caller.”* In 2017 he championed the US publication of the satirical book *“Pussy”* by award-winning British novelist **Howard Jacobson** - the first book to define **Donald Trump** as a psychotic, perpetually-infantile malignant narcissist. He also spearheaded its US marketing & publicity campaign.

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