

Words about Martin Lewis



- **Bill Maher:** *"He started as a producer working with Monty Python and Peter Cook. Now he's a respected comedic performer in his own right..."*
- **Michael Palin:** *"Martin Lewis is, as they say in Mali [West Africa], a 'griot.' A very valuable member of society - much respected and feared – who remembers everything."*
- **Richard Lewis:** *"Watching Martin Lewis do his thing is like experiencing a great jazz master riffing on a solo... I've always admired him. A great wordsmith..."*
- **Shirley MacLaine:** *"Great talent"*
- **Carol Leifer:** *"Great material!"*
- **Nancy Sinatra:** *"Holy shit! Fabulous writing!"*
- **Wolf Blitzer:** *"A very funny man!"*
- **Chris Matthews:** *"That was brilliant! Those ads were created by humorist Martin Lewis..."*
- **Arianna Huffington:** *"He's too funny for TV!"*
- **Dick Cavett:** *"A good man!"*
- **Steven Van Zandt:** *"He's an expert on... everything!"*
- **Sting:** *"...We chatted about pop music. A very arcane discussion about various obscure bands from the sixties. And 'B' sides. He thinks he's an expert on 'B' sides... But of course I know more!"*
- **Jerry Lewis:** *"He is without a doubt..."*
- **Geraldo Rivera:** *"He's 'Martin & Lewis' reunited..."*
- **Roger Ebert:** *"A young Robin Leach..."*
- **Robin Leach:** *"A young man who could take over my entire career. I adore him!"*
- **Joy Reid:** *"You are a national treasure... You're an INTERNATIONAL treasure actually... You're an INTERCONTINENTAL treasure!!!"*
- **Jeffrey Tambor:** *"I'd like to make a documentary about him..."*
- **Janeane Garofalo:** *"I like the way he 'fluffs and folds' his hair..."*
- **George Michael:** *"Absolutely the worst dancer I've ever seen..."*
- **Sharon Stone:** *"He asked me to slap him - so I slapped him!"*
- **Slash:** *"He reminds me of my mother..."*
- **Terry Jones:** *"I just caught Martin Lewis' new column in the Huffington Post. 'Cancer Patients Are Selfish And Un-American! (And Jesus & God Think So Too!)' Great stuff!"*
- **Peter Gabriel:** *"The 'Secret Policeman's Ball' shows and all the subsequent rock concerts and tours for Amnesty International that I and others did? They all started with Martin Lewis..."*
- **Pete Townshend:** *"It's 1979 that I appeared at 'The Secret Policeman's Ball' My friend Martin Lewis had invited me - in a sense to break up the comedy... And it was amazing subsequently to see what that triggered... I really, really relied on people like Martin to keep me abreast of what was going on..."*
- **Bono:** *"I saw 'The Secret Policeman's Ball' and it became a part of me. It sowed a seed..."*
- **Sting:** *"The seed was planted at Amnesty for Bob Geldof. He saw what they were doing. He saw how entertainment could help that process and then he took the "Ball" and ran with it..."*
- **John Cleese:** *"The 'Secret Policeman's Ball'... It's Martin Lewis' title, I can pin that one on him. But I thought it was quite funny..."*
- **Harvey Weinstein:** *"We learned a lot about publicity and marketing from our experience with Martin Lewis."*
- **Derek Taylor:** *"He sticks out like a healthy thumb..."*
- **Joy Reid:** *"If Martin Lewis didn't exist we'd need to invent him!"*
- **Peter Cook:** *"Martin Lewis is a real breath of hot air..."*



- "He is perhaps his own Leonardo, a true Renaissance Man who seems to have done just about everything in the world of entertainment." – *L.A. Weekly*
- "There has never been anyone quite like Martin Lewis in British comedy or, indeed, in British popular culture more generally. Looking for his influence is a bit like looking for snowflakes in the middle of a blizzard - it's all over the place... A veritable Swiss Army knife of a show business operator." – *The British Comedy Guide*
- "Handsome, charming and intelligently funny, he regales his audience with stories from his fascinating life in entertainment..." – *Paper Magazine*
- "Martin Lewis is a benign British hydra, a multi-headed, multi-tasking entertainment serpent" – *Huffington Post*
- "A treat! Incites and inspires with his witticisms" – *Village Voice*
- "Preternaturally affable... a very captivating raconteur" – *Los Angeles Magazine*
- "The funniest fellow I bumped into at the GOP convention..." – *Forward*
- "Martin Lewis has some *serious* mojo... Seriously - the guy is magic" – *LAist*
- "Too weird to be believed! Fortunately he works in comedy..." – *New York Observer*
- "Unlike many comics, whose stage personalities are unrelated to their offstage selves, this guy is the real thing - warm, charming and funny as hell." – *Nightlife Magazine*
- "Ultra-high-energy... a machine-gun style delivery of sardonic observations sweetened by an irrepressible exuberance... the sort of wit I call unimpeachable" – *L.A. Weekly*
- "A fixture on American TV as a social commentator on politics and pop culture" – *Paper Magazine*
- "Lewis - as co-creator/producer of Amnesty's *Secret Policeman's Ball* benefits - Instigated Amnesty's outreach to the rock world" – *Rolling Stone*
- "Lewis happens to have been a participant in some of the most fascinating projects in modern entertainment and has a phenomenal memory with instant recall of gargantuan amounts of detail about the events and personalities in his experience. He also has a historian's obsession for detail about pop-culture that preceded him." – *Huffington Post*
- "The Denis Diderot of Beatle encyclopedists..." – *Variety*
- "A clever comic!" – *New York Post*
- "A veteran hipster!" – *New York Press*
- "Delightfully cheeky!" – *Jewish Journal*
- "Martin Lewis, as producer of the *Mods & Rockers Film Festival*, is that perfect British admixture of well-spoken decorum and borderline lunacy" – *Huffington Post*
- "The man has helped manage Eric Burdon and Donovan, produced records, films, and festivals on both sides of the Atlantic, and served as HuffPo's resident *Least-Reserved Englishman*. Hell... when he was fifteen he compiled the discography for Hunter Davies' Beatles bio... By nineteen he was recruiting Pete Townshend to write dust-jacket blurbs." – *Washington City Paper*
- "Not a man to shirk from a sweeping statement..." – *London Sunday Times [UK]*
- "Over the past dozen years, Mr. Lewis has produced and hosted (in Los Angeles, New York and Washington DC) some of the finest pop-cultural events and entertainments... The eclectic list goes on and on; frankly, the man blows minds." – *Huffington Post*
- "The madly wonderful Martin Lewis - look him up - he's a real hoot..." – *L.A. Weekly*
- What Lewis contributed in terms of originating and evolving something as special and influential as *The Secret Policeman's Ball*, merits him a place in the pantheon of Britain's most significant and successful comedy patrons and producers. When one adds to this all of his many other acts of advice, encouragement and innovation, in multiple spheres of the arts, then he also, quite easily, wins a place in British comedy history as one of its most interesting and irrepressible characters. – *The British Comedy Guide*
- "If he were less self-aware, less British, he would write an incredible *The Kid Stays in the Picture*-esque aria about the last half of the twentieth century..." – *The Awl*
- "Some day the 'repressed performer' in him will probably come out and he'll turn into Mel Brooks..." – *New York Times [1982]*



MARTIN LEWIS

Described by L.A. Weekly as "*a true Renaissance Man*" Martin Lewis is a cultural alchemist and adventurer who has had five decades of achievements in many different spheres - including music, comedy, film, theatre, TV, radio, literature, journalism, communications, marketing, advertising and politics.

The British Comedy Guide states "*there has never been anyone quite like Martin Lewis in British comedy or, indeed, in British popular culture.*" It places him "*in the pantheon of Britain's most significant and successful comedy patrons and producers. When one adds to this all of his many other acts of advice, encouragement and innovation, in multiple spheres of the arts, then he also, quite easily, wins a place in British comedy history as one of its most interesting and irrepressible characters.*"

Inspired by and following in the footsteps of individuals he worked and became friends with early in his career who were noted polymaths, hyphenates and multipotentialites - including Peter Ustinov, Peter Cook and Monty Python alumni Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam - over a fifty-year span Lewis has worked successfully in multiple roles - often simultaneously.

The canon of work in his polymathic career includes notable credits as a writer, journalist, columnist, editor, humorist, satirist, raconteur, monologist, soliloquist, diseur, griot, historian, biographer, Beatleologist, master of ceremonies, panel moderator, comedic actor, TV presenter, radio host, producer, director, impresario, indie movie distributor, film festival creator/organizer, curator of photographic and art exhibitions, publicist, marketing strategist, creator of advertising, propagandist, polemicist, social & political activist, title-ist (*a deviser of titles for intellectual properties*), saloniere (*one who organizes & hosts cultural salons*), logophile, logodaedalus (*one who uses words with skill or cunning - pronounced: "logg-o-DEED-a-luss"*), pedant, epicure, gourmet, gourmand, gastronome and bon vivant.

He has been engaged in so many consequential interactions with high-profile individuals over the last half-century that some wonder if he is a self-propelled 'agent provocateur'.

He gently demurs and makes the point that the majority of his many adventures have been - and continue to be - diplomatic and consensual.

*"I think my interactions usually have sufficient chivalry, courtesy, honor and humor to be described as 'gentlemanly'. So if I may slightly re-punctuate that descriptive I would say that I am 'A **Gent** Provocateur'..."*

