



Martin Short Judge, *Canada's Got Talent*

Martin Short was born in Hamilton, Ont., where he lived and worked until graduating from McMaster University with a degree in social work. His comedic talents were undeniable, and his prowess for slapstick supreme. It was no surprise when he chose a career in comedy.

He started out small, with tiny roles on American television. He appeared in two series, *The Associates* and *I'm a Big Girl Now*. His first big break came in 1982 in the form of a role on *SCTV: Network 90*, the American version of the hit Canadian comedy series *SCTV*.

After one year, he returned to his country of birth to appear in the original *SCTV*. Short won an Emmy, a Gemini, and the Earl Grey Award for his work in *SCTV*. The show brought him to the attention of the country and also to fellow Canuck-turned-television producer Lorne Michaels. Short was lured south of the border once more to appear in Michaels' *Saturday Night Live*, where he stayed for only a year. The year was enough, however, for Americans to take notice. Short was ready for bigger things, and bigger screens.

Short got his big-screen debut in *Three Amigos*, a film which starred fellow SNL alums Chevy Chase and Steve Martin. Since then, he has been on a steady roll and has continued to appear in comedic films. Short usually appears in co-starring and supportive roles, such as the character of Franck, in Steve Martin's *Father of the Bride* films.

Along with his feature film work, Short has also always had a penchant for the stage. Shortly after graduation from McMaster, he appeared in the stage production of *Godspell*. Other Canadian stage productions include *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (he played Snoopy), *What's a Nice Country Like You Doing in a State Like This?*, *The Apple Tree*, *Harry's Back in Town*, and *Second City*.

Short appeared on Broadway in Neil Simon's musical version of *The Goodbye Girl*, where he received a Tony Award nomination, as well as the Outer Critics Circle and Theater World Awards. He has also starred in director Lawrence Kasdan's production of John Patrick Shanley's *Four Dogs and a Bone* at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles.

Between films and stage productions, Short has been busy working with the television media. He has written and produced three comedy specials. *Martin Short's Concert for the North Americas* was the first and won a Cable Ace Award. The second was *I, Martin Short, Goes Hollywood*, which also won an Ace, and the third was *The Show Formerly Known as the Martin Short Show*, which won him an Emmy Award.

It seems that when it comes to television, almost everything he touches turns to gold, except of course the actual *Martin Short Show*, which crashed and burned quickly (but such is Hollywood!). Regardless of the size of his roles, Short has still become one of the most recognizable faces in comedy. He perfected the art of body humour long before fellow Canadian Jim Carrey hit the big time. His glory days were in the '80s, but since then, his film credits include *Innerspace*, *Jungle 2 Jungle*, *A Simple Wish*, *Mars Attacks!*, *The Big Picture*, *Clifford*, *Jimmy Neutron*, *Father of the Bride* (I and II) and *Mumford*.

In 1994, Short was awarded Canada's highest civilian honour, The Order of Canada.

Awards include:

1999 — Tony — Actor in a Musical, *Little Me*

1999 — Outer Critics Circle — Outstanding Actor in a Musical, *Little Me*

1993 — Theater World Award

1993 — Outer Critics Circle — Outstanding Actor in a Musical, *The Goodbye Girl*

1982 — Nelly — Outstanding Writing, *SCTV Comedy Network*

1982 — Emmy — Outstanding Writing in a Variety or Music Program, *SCTV Comedy Network*