

 **The Schmooze**
Stories with a Yiddish Twist

A YIDDISH GUIDE TO MARTY INGELS

by
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Syosset, New York

Marty Ingels, an “aktyor” (actor) and talent agent known for his offbeat sense of humor, storytelling and marriage to Shirley Jones, has passed away. Shown below is a Yiddish guide to Ingels:

“nomen” (name)

Marty was born Martin Ingerman in Brooklyn in 1936.

“tate-mame” (parents)

Ingels parents were Jacob and Minnie Ingerman.

“kindhayt” (childhood)

Ingels writes that “He was born with a sweet Cabbage Patch Kid face..

He had a miserable (“tsoredik”) childhood, always feeling ignored or overshadowed by a model older brother, Arthur.

“khinukh” (education)

Ingels studied acting at the Pasadena Playhouse, but learned immediately (“teykef”) that the legitimate stage was not for him.

“dos kol” (the voice)

Marty had a raspy voice.

“bakenen zikh mit” (to be introduced/meet)

Ingels met Shirley Jones, co-star of the 1970s hit, “The Partridge Family” at a party at actor, Michael Landon’s, home. They were married in 1977 in Bel Air, California. (Both had been previously married.)

“der froy” (the wife)

“I was a Jewish kid from Brooklyn and she [Shirley Jones] was Miss America. A lot of people never got that. But Shirley always did.”

(Ingels quote)

“meshuge” (crazy)

Shirley said, “He often drove me crazy, but there’s not a day I won’t miss him and love him to my core.” (Shirley Jones quote)

“di tsesheydung” (the separation)

Marty Ingels and his wife, Shirley Jones, went through a painful (“veytikdik”) separation. They arranged to meet for a reconciliation session at their therapist’s office. The couple got back together, and remained happily married.

“vayn” (wine)

Marty did voice-overs for Paul Masson wines.

“bukh” (book)

Ingels and Shirley Jones published an autobiography about their relationship, “Shirley & Marty: An Unlikely Love Story” in 1990.

“televisye” (television) roles

Ingels appeared in his own short-lived sitcom, “I’m Dickens, He’s Fenster,” with John Astin. He guested on The Dick Van Dyke Show, Bewitched, The Love Boat, and on CSI.

“nervez breykdaun” (nervous breakdown)

Ingels suffered a nervous breakdown on the Johnny Carson show. He did his routine; his timing was a little off, but it wasn’t bad. The applause wasn’t bad. He went to the couch, and the next guest came in. From the fingertips of his right hand to his right shoulder (“pleytse”), there was a tingling...that wouldn’t stop. His entire body was trembling and the audience was starting to whisper (“sheptshen”) and giggle. They thought he was doing a shtick. He fell to the floor backstage...For the next nine months, Marty dropped out of sight.

Source: “Shirley & Marty: An Unlikely Love Story”

“der gast” (the guest)

“I did a guest shot on CSI and that really revived my brain, my ego and my self-esteem. The character (“der parshoy’n”) was sensational. What was great was that everybody was reading for that part--and I got it. I said, ‘Bingo, I must be something.’ It was their last show of the season (“sezon”) and everybody watched it. I came home and I said, ‘Shirley, I’m still in business.’”

“perfekt” (perfect)

“They were going to do the life of Red Skelton. I would have been perfect for that because I looked so much like him when I was a young cat.”

(Ingels quote)

“di umru” (the anxiety)

“Anxiety. I was anxiety. You know? I needed notes. Now you can bring them up or they have Teleprompters this and that. I also didn’t have the courage to be Bill Cosby.

He'd tell wonderful ("vunderlekh") jokes and stories. Today there are no jokes. It's getting up and telling stories about your life."

(quote from interview with Kliph Nesteroff)

"di trefshpil" (the puzzle)

"No big puzzle to figure out what makes people laugh. One day I said something and everyone laughed. My brain went, 'Heyyyyyyy! Listen to that! I'm loved. It has served me well. I never became Billy Crystal, but it has served me well."

(quote from interview with Kliph Nesteroff)

"der kino" (movie theatre)

Ingels appeared in the following movies: Armored Command, A Guide for the Married Man, If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium, and Instant Karma.

His voice appeared as Beegle Beagle in The Great Grape Autocat and Motormouse cartoons, and as Pac-Man.

"dos pisk" (loudmouth), slang

[on film, "If It's Tuesday This Must Be Belgium"]

"What a coup that was. We filmed in about fourteen different countries. It was just great and I worked with a lot of wonderful people. I got to play the perfect character. This big loudmouth, flashy guy with a camera ("aparat") and a hat taking pictures of everything. It was perfect. Those were the days when comics didn't become movie stars. They had little bit parts."

(Ingels quote)

"talant" (talent)

Later in life, Ingels worked mainly as a talent agent, representing actors for celebrity endorsements. He booked John Wayne and Cary Grant for TV commercials.

"royt tepekh" (red carpet)

"kardbord" (cardboard)

There was a time when Ingels tried to walk the red carpet at the Emmys, accompanied by a life-size cardboard cutout of Ms. Jones, who was then out of the country. (Denied admission, the two-dimensional Ms. Jones was consigned to a closet for the duration of the ceremony.)

"der zinger" (the singer)

"di noz" (the nose)

[on Barbra Streisand] "Barbara Streisand evidences perhaps the greatest potential of the new entrants. She knows her way with a song and gives out with sensitive interpretation. She's very youthful and, if intent about her professional ambitions, perhaps a little corrective schnoz bob might be an element to be considered." (Ingels quote)

"der zinger" - Frank Sinatra

“Frank Sinatra got away with everything (“altsding”). He was supposed to do the Gordon MacRae role in Carousel, Let me tell you, Shirley did all her prerecording with him! It’s worth a lot of money. I’ve got those...First day of shooting Frank shows up in his big (“groys”) limo. He gets out of the car and he sees two sets of cameras. He said, “What’s this?” They said, “Well, Frank, we’re going to shoot some of the scenes twice (“tsvey mol”).” He said, “Am I getting paid once or twice?” They said, “Once (“eyn mol”).” He got right in the car, slammed the door and left. Nobody knew what to do. Shirley said, “I know a very wonderful singer named Gordon McRae.” She went to the phone booth and called Gordon in New York. “Listen, can you come do Carousel with me? You have to lose fifteen (“fuftsn”) pounds. Can you do it in two days?” And what a dream team they made!

(Ingels quote)

“di fantazye” (the fantasy)

“I have little fantasies of being a fly on the wall. I always wanted to be at the breakfast (“der frishtik”) table to hear the conversation between the husband and wife team of Mel Brooks and Anne Bankroft.

I would love to hear what they said to each other! She’s no longer with us. I heard he didn’t leave the house for a couple of years after that. They were very much connected.” (Ingels quote)

“di barimtkayt” (the celebrity)

“der mamzer’ (bastard)

“Dustin Hoffman is the biggest b..... who ever lived. There are directors who have worked with him that have said, ‘I’d rather have cancer than work with Dustin Hoffman again!’...Milton Berle was pushy, too, y’know. Red Buttons was a nice guy, but don’t ever get on stage when you’re supposed to be equals. He’ll cut both your legs off and jump on you.”

(Ingels quote)

“der komiker” (the comic)

“Comics are needy people, but it’s a great talent.” (Ingels quote)

“tshepen zikh tsu” (to annoy)

“nudjen and tshepin zikh” (to annoy persistently)

In 1993, Ingels sued actress June Allyson for his agency commission.

Allyson denied wrongdoing and countersued. Ingels pled no contest to making annoying phone calls to Allyson.

In 2003, Ingels sued radio (“radyo”) personality Tom Leykis and Westwood One, saying that comments about him constituted age discrimination.

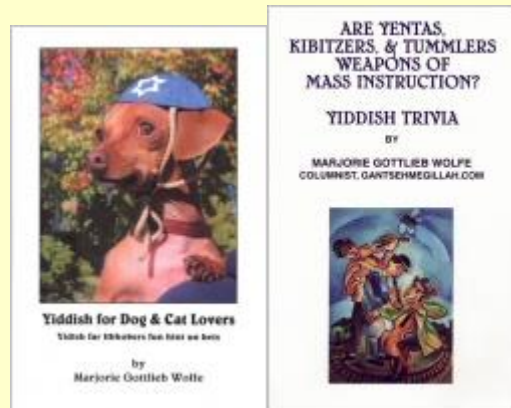
In June 2005, Ingel’s lawsuit was dismissed and Ingels was ordered to pay Leykis’s \$25,000 in legal fees.

MARJORIE WOLFE will be giving lectures this winter in the following So. Florida areas: Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, Lake Worth, and West Palm Beach. She'll be participating in the Mandel JCC Ace Program on Jan. 20 and March 28, and the Grand Edventures program at Temple Emet on March 9. Her topic for Grand Edventures: "Jewish Women's Eggs: A Hot Commodity." Check your local library to see her schedule.

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Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and "Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com

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