

Section: Harpo Marx0

Context: In January 1910, Harpo joined two of his brothers, Julius (later "Groucho") and Milton (later "Gummo"), to form "The Three Nightingales", later changed to simply "The Marx Brothers". Multiple stories—most unsubstantiated—exist to explain Harpo's evolution as the "silent" character in the brothers' act. In his memoir, Groucho wrote that Harpo simply wasn't very good at memorizing dialogue, and thus was ideal for the role of the "dunce who couldn't speak", a common character in vaudeville acts of the time. Harpo gained his stage name during a card game at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg, Illinois. The dealer (Art Fisher) called him "Harpo" because he played the harp. He learned how to hold it properly from a picture of an angel playing a harp that he saw in a five-and-dime. No one in town knew how to play the harp, so Harpo tuned it as best he could, starting with one basic note and tuning it from there. Three years later he found out he had tuned it incorrectly, but he could not have tuned it properly; if he had, the strings would have broken each night. Harpo's method placed much less tension on the strings. Although he played this way for the rest of his life, he did try to learn how to play correctly, and he spent considerable money hiring the best teachers. They spent their time listening to him, fascinated by the way he played. The major exception was Mildred Dilling, a professional harpist who did teach Harpo the proper techniques of the instrument and collaborated with him regularly when he had difficulty with various compositions. In the autobiography *Harpo Speaks* (1961), he recounts how Chico found him jobs playing piano to accompany silent movies. Unlike Chico, Harpo could play only two songs on the piano, "Waltz Me Around Again, Willie" and "Love Me and the World Is Mine," but he adapted this small repertoire in different tempos to suit the action on the screen. He was also seen playing a portion of Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C minor" in *A Day at the Races* and chords on the piano in *A Night at the Opera*, in such a way that the piano sounded much like a harp, as a prelude to actually playing the harp in that scene. Harpo had changed his name from Adolph to Arthur by 1911. This was due primarily to his dislike for the name Adolph (as a child, he was routinely called "Ahdie" instead). The name change may have also happened because of the similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks, a prominent show business attorney in Chicago. Urban legends stating that the name change came about during World War I due to anti-German sentiment in the US, or during World War II because of the stigma that Adolf Hitler imposed on the name, are groundless. CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **What is notable about on stage?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Harpo gained his stage name during a card game at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg, Illinois.

TEACHERX: ⇨ In January 1910, Harpo joined two of his brothers, Julius (later "Groucho") and Milton (later "Gummo"), to form "The Three Nightingales", later changed to simply "The Marx Brothers"

TEACHERX: ⇨ January 1910, Harpo joined two of his brothers, Julius (later "Groucho") and Milton (later "Gummo"), to form "The Three Nightingales", later changed to simply "The Marx Brothers".

TEACHERX: ⇨ January 1910, Harpo joined two of his brothers, Julius (later "Groucho") and Milton (later "Gummo"), to form "The Three Nightingales",

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo gained his stage name during a card game at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg, Illinois.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo gained his stage name during a card game at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg, Illinois.

STUDENT: **What is his stage name?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Harpo" because he played the harp.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo gained his stage name during a card game at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg, Illinois.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo

TEACHERX: ⇨ The dealer (Art Fisher) called him "Harpo" because he played the harp.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo" because he played the harp.

STUDENT: **Did he perform any other acts on stage?**

TEACHER: ⇨ playing piano

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo's evolution as the "silent" character in the brothers' act.

TEACHERX: ⇨ In the autobiography Harpo Speaks (1961), he recounts how Chico found him jobs playing piano to accompany silent movies.

TEACHERX: ⇨ playing piano

STUDENT: **Did he gain any recognition during this time?**

TEACHER: ↗ No one in town knew how to play the harp, so Harpo tuned it as best he could, starting with one basic note

TEACHERX: ↗ Unlike Chico, Harpo could play only two songs on the piano, "Waltz Me Around Again, Willie" and "Love Me and the World Is Mine,"

TEACHERX: ↗ Harpo had changed his name from Adolph to Arthur by 1911. This was due primarily to his dislike for the name Adolph

TEACHERX: ↗ No one in town knew how to play the harp, so Harpo tuned it as best he could, starting with one basic note

STUDENT: **Are there any other interesting aspects about this article?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, Harpo had changed his name from Adolph to Arthur by 1911. This was due primarily to his dislike for the name Adolph

TEACHERX: ⇨ Yes, Three years later he found out he had tuned it incorrectly, but he could not have tuned it properly; if he had, the strings would have broken each night.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Yes, he adapted this small repertoire in different tempos to suit the action on the screen.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Yes, Harpo had changed his name from Adolph to Arthur by 1911.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Yes, Three years later he found out he had tuned it incorrectly, but he could not have tuned it properly; if he had, the strings would have broken each night.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Yes, Harpo had changed his name from Adolph to Arthur by 1911. This was due primarily to his dislike for the name Adolph

STUDENT: **Why did he dislike the name?**

TEACHER: ⇨ he was routinely called "Ahdie" instead). The name change may have also happened because

TEACHERX: ⇨ his dislike for the name Adolph (as a child, he was routinely called "Ahdie" instead).

TEACHERX: ⇨ as a child, he was routinely called "Ahdie" instead

TEACHERX: ⇨ The name change may have also happened because of the similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks,

TEACHERX: ⇨ The name change may have also happened because of the similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks,

TEACHERX: ⇨ he was routinely called "Ahdie" instead). The name change may have also happened because

STUDENT: **What is the other reason?**

TEACHER: ⇨ similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks, a prominent show business attorney in Chicago.

TEACHERX: ⇨). The name change may have also happened because of the similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks, a prominent show business attorney

TEACHERX: ⇨ The name change may have also happened because of the similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks,

TEACHERX: ⇨). The name change may have also happened because of the similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks, a prominent show business attorney in Chicago.

TEACHERX: ⇨ as a child, he was routinely called "Ahdie" instead

TEACHERX: ⇨ similarity between Harpo's name and Adolph Marks, a prominent show business attorney in Chicago.

STUDENT: **Did he go on stage with anyone famous?**

TEACHER: ↗ Yes, The major exception was Mildred Dilling, a professional harpist who did teach Harpo the proper techniques

TEACHERX: ↗ Yes, Harpo joined two of his brothers, Julius (later "Groucho") and Milton (later "Gummo"), to form "The Three Nightingales", later changed to simply "The Marx Brothers".

TEACHERX: ↗ Yes, two of his brothers, Julius (later "Groucho") and Milton

TEACHERX: ↗ Yes, The major exception was Mildred Dilling, a professional harpist who did teach Harpo the proper techniques

STUDENT: **What's the most fascinating aspect of this article?**

TEACHER: ⇨ He learned how to hold it properly from a picture of an angel playing a harp that he saw in a five-and-dime.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Harpo gained his stage name during a card game at the Orpheum Theatre in Galesburg, Illinois. The dealer (Art Fisher) called him "Harpo" because he played the harp.

TEACHERX: ⇨ Urban legends stating that the name change came about during World War I due to anti-German sentiment in the US,

TEACHERX: ⇨ No one in town knew how to play the harp, so Harpo tuned it as best he could, starting with one basic note

TEACHERX: ⇨ the "silent" character in the brothers' act. In his memoir, Groucho wrote that Harpo simply wasn't very good at memorizing dialogue,

TEACHERX: ⇨ He learned how to hold it properly from a picture of an angel playing a harp that he saw in a five-and-dime.