

Harpo Marx



• 1888 - 1964

(born in Manhattan, New York, USA; died in Los Angeles, California, USA)

- 2nd oldest of the 5 Marx brothers, who were an American family comedy act
 - Born Adolph Marx, changed his name to Arthur, and then was given the stage name Harpo because of his harp playing
 - When Harpo was in his twenties, his mother gave him an inexpensive harp and he learned to play on his own
 - Because he was self-taught and couldn't read music, Harpo's playing is both highly creative and really unusual
 - Later he took lessons with well-known harp teachers, including Mildred Dilling and Henriette Renié, but his playing remained unique
 - Harpo never spoke during comedy performances (but his brothers did)
 - Together the Marx Brothers made 13 feature films and Harpo plays the harp in many of these

