



It's Our History, Our Country

Written by: Ronald Wolf

Monty Hall



Aug. 25, 1921

It's no surprise that Canadians are multi-talented and honoured for movies, TV, and even government awards and Monty Hall is no stranger to them.

Monte Halperin, a.k.a. Monty Hall, is a Canadian-born emcee, producer, actor, singer and sportscaster, best known as host of the television game show *Let's Make a Deal*.

Hall received a star on the

Hollywood Walk of Fame on Aug. 24, 1973, a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Fame in 2000, and in 2002, he was also inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame.

In May 1988, the Government of Canada bestowed on him the prestigious Order of Canada for his humanitarian work in Canada and other nations of the world. For many years, he has been associated with *Variety*, the Children's Charity, helping to raise millions of dollars through their telethons and other related fund-raisers.

Hall was the recipient of the 2005 Ralph Edwards Service Award from Game Show Congress, in recognition of all the work the emcee-producer has done for charity through the years.

On Oct. 13, 2007, Hall was one of the first inductees into the American TV Game Show Hall of Fame in Las Vegas.

Hall started his life-long career in Toronto, Ont. in 1962 and soon made his way to America.

In 1962, with co-producer Art Stark, Hall sold his first game show to NBC, *Your First Impression*, which ran for two years. Stefan Hatos was the producer of that show, and eventually, he and Hall formed a production company, at first called Hatos/Hall Productions and later renamed The Maltese Companies.

Hall was host to *Let's Make a Deal*, which he developed and produced with Stefan Hatos. *Let's Make a Deal* aired on NBC daytime from Dec. 30, 1963, to Dec. 27, 1968, and on ABC daytime from 1968 to 1976, along with two primetime runs.

Hall has been married for many years to his wife, the former Marilyn Plottel, and he has two daughters (actress and Tony Award winner Joanna Gleason

and Sharon Hall, a television executive) and one son (Richard Hall, a television producer).

In addition to his work on game shows, Hall was a radio analyst for the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League during the 1958-60 season. Between 1956 and 1960, Hall worked as one of several

rotating hosts of NBC Radio's Monitor weekend broadcast.

Because of his work on *Let's Make a Deal*, Hall's name is used in a probability puzzle known as "The Monty Hall Problem," which examines the counter-intuitive effect of switching one's choice of doors, one of which hides a prize, if Monty reveals an unwanted item behind a door the player did not choose.

Hall himself gave an explanation of the solution to that problem, and why the solution did not apply to the case of the actual show, in an interview with *The New York Times* reporter John Tierney in 1991. Since Hall had control over the way the game progressed, he played on the psychology of the contestant. The puzzle was mentioned in an episode of the first season of the CBS drama *NUMB3RS*, in the 2008 movie *21*, and also in the novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

Though he retired in the early 1990s, Hall still makes occasional television appearances. He played the host of a beauty pageant who schemed to become "the world's most powerful game show host" in the Disney animated series *American Dragon: Jake Long*. Monty appeared on GSN Live on Mar. 14, 2008, and hosted a game of *Let's Make a Deal* for *Good Morning America* on Aug. 18, 2008, as part of Game Show Reunion week.

In summer 2009, CBS announced that it was reviving *Let's Make a Deal* as the replacement for the soap opera, *Guiding Light*. The show premiered on Oct. 5, 2009 with Wayne Brady as host. Hall is credited as "Creative Consultant," Hatos/Hall Productions is credited as co-production Company. During the week of Mar. 22, 2010 Hall hosted several segments of the *Deal* alongside Brady. The program has been renewed for the 2010-2011 season.

Hall appeared with his wife on *The Newlywed Game* hosted by Bob Eubanks on May 18, 2010.

If I said it once, I'll say it a thousand times, Canadian are making a difference and getting recognition for their feats all over the world and in *It's Our History, Our Country*.