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Why Did Old Hollywood Sound So Fancy?

Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and the Art of Speaking Like an Aristocrat

There's a certain charm to old Hollywood movies — glamorous stars, sweeping orchestral scores, and, of course, that oddly posh, vaguely British way of speaking. You know the one. The voice makes Katharine Hepburn sound like she's perpetually midway through an important luncheon and Cary Grant appear to deliver a one-liner while also sipping afternoon tea. This isn't just a coincidence; it's the **Transatlantic accent**, and for a while, it was the gold standard of sophisticated speech.

Unlike normal regional dialects, the Transatlantic accent wasn't something

people naturally developed by growing up in a particular area. It was an acquired accent drilled into the minds of upper-crust New Englanders at elite boarding schools and embraced by stage actors who wanted to sound refined. Essentially, it was the linguistic equivalent of wearing a tuxedo at all times.

Hollywood, never one to pass up a trend, adopted this cultivated accent in the early days of talkies. Why? Because it made actors sound polished, articulate, and, quite frankly, fancy. The crisp, clipped tones worked wonders for those speedy, back-and-forth

screwball comedy exchanges. Just watch "His Girl Friday" and try not to be dazzled by the machine-gun dialogue between Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell!

And then, just as suddenly as it arrived, the Transatlantic accent packed its bags and vanished. By the 1950s, Hollywood started shifting away from aristocratic dramas and high-society stories, opting instead for gritty realism and everyday characters. The era of Marlon Brando and James Dean meant mumbling was in, and sounding like you vacationed on the French Riviera every summer was ... well, out.

Of course, we can still enjoy the legacy of the Transatlantic accent in classic films. Want to master it yourself? Pick up "Speak With Distinction" by Edith Skinner, the holy grail of old-school elocution training. Soon enough, you'll drop your R's, crisp your T's, and stretch your vowels until "dance" becomes "*dahnnce*." After all, old Hollywood may be gone, but its impeccable enunciation will never go out of style.



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KEEPING TIME, FINDING FOCUS

Music Lessons I Carried Into Law

Most people know me as an attorney, but I was behind a drum kit long before I stepped into a courtroom. With World Day of Music in June, I've been reflecting on what music meant to me growing up and how it's stayed with me even if I never turned it into a profession.

I picked up drumming early on. I had a few snare lessons and played in jazz band, though I was more focused on sports then. Music didn't take center stage, but it never really left. Years later, I hired a musician to perform at a birthday party. He saw my old drum kit in the corner and asked if I still played. A few weeks later, we were rehearsing together. That turned into weekend gigs, a small band, and the familiar routine of loading gear in and out of bars and events.

We mostly played rock songs from performers like Tom Petty and Dave Matthews Band. It was casual, but we performed regularly. One of the more unexpected highlights came when a teenage girl from the church youth group my bandmates were involved with started sitting in. She had real talent and eventually made it on "The Voice." Later, our group backed her when she played at a local music festival. I never saw myself as a performer, but that show was a fun experience. It reminded me that music can lead to some unexpected places.

Of course, I didn't end up on stage full time, but music taught me a great deal. You learn to keep your head straight, stay in time with others, and adapt as things shift around you. That kind of awareness helps in more places than a rehearsal space. That's why I encouraged my daughter to take piano lessons when she was younger. I didn't care if she stuck with it long term. I just wanted her to benefit from learning something challenging and unfamiliar.

Music teaches patience and builds confidence, but it goes further. Research shows that musical training can improve memory, focus, and even how we process language and emotion. It's no coincidence that many of the very intelligent professionals I've met — lawyers, doctors,



engineers — have a background in music. It shows that what you learn from music stays with you and often carries over into academic and professional success.

I've also noticed how often music shows up in the background of people's lives, especially when things get difficult. I've represented injured clients who had to step away from things they loved, including school music programs and creative outlets that gave them structure. Recovery isn't just physical. It's about helping people return to what gives them purpose, whether that's work, routine, or something creative they love. At our firm, we fight for that kind of recovery because we've seen how much it matters.

Music has been part of my life for a long time, even if I don't play much now. I still have the drums and occasionally sit in at charity events, but I mostly just appreciate what music gives me. When I need to reset after a long day, putting on something familiar does the trick. So, I encourage you to carve out a little time for the music you enjoy this month. Listen to your favorite song, or dust off an old instrument. A few minutes of music can go a long way.

Marc L. Shapiro



Thrive in the Thrills

A FAMILY GUIDE TO THEME PARK FUN

Going to a theme park is one of the most memorable ways to spend a family vacation. Theme parks are full of excitement, but they can also be overwhelming — especially with young kids in tow. The right game plan can turn a day of long lines and potential meltdowns into a fun, memorable adventure.

PLAN SMART, PLAY HARD.

Rather than simply packing up and heading to the park, take some time to research and plan your trip. Look into show schedules and ride restrictions, such as height limits, ahead of time so you can plan your day. Many parks also have mobile apps to track wait times and order food. Visit the most popular attractions early before the crowds swell. Visiting on weekdays or during off-peak seasons also helps avoid long lines to maximize your family's fun.

REMEMBER SNACKS, DRINKS, AND SUN PROTECTION.

Theme park restaurants can be expensive and busy. If you plan to dine in the park, make reservations to avoid wasting precious time in long lines. If allowed, pack your own lunch to save time and money. It's also wise to carry reusable water bottles to keep the family hydrated without breaking the bank on expensive bottled water.

If visiting a park during summer, don't forget the sun protection. Sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, and breathable clothing are a must when walking all day in the heat. Taking a few minutes for a midday break in a shaded area or at an indoor show will help the family recharge for the rest of the visit.

KEEP EXPECTATIONS FLEXIBLE AND FUN.

Even with careful planning, things won't always work out like you hope — expect ride



closures, long lines, and cranky kids. Creating a list of backup attractions or activities can help you easily pivot if Plan A doesn't work out. And don't try to see everything in one visit. Trying to hit every ride can backfire and make the trip miserable.

Often, the best memories happen in unexpected moments. A little structure mixed with flexibility can lead to a lot of fun and ensure your family's theme park adventure is about making memories rather than managing stress.

A National Safety Month Reminder

SMALL HABITS PREVENT BIG INJURIES



June is National Safety Month, and it's a good time to take stock of the unsafe habits that get overlooked. Most people don't think much about safety until something happens. But staying out of harm's way often starts with the small things, like being a little more aware and a little less rushed.

What We See, What We Miss

Plenty of injury cases I see didn't start with anything dramatic. Someone looked away from the road for a second. Someone else skipped a step because they were tired or trying to save time. It's easy to think it'll be fine because it always has been, but all it takes is one bad moment.

One of the most common places these small mistakes show up is behind the wheel. I've lost count of how many people I've seen texting while driving or drifting into another lane without noticing. Many drivers also put too much trust in features like auto braking or lane assist. Technology helps, but it doesn't replace paying attention. If you're not fully tuned in, you're not in control.

The same goes for work or everyday errands. People spot a loose railing or wet floor and assume someone else will handle it. But if you notice it and say nothing, it's likely to be missed. You don't need a safety badge to speak up when something's off.

The Small Things That Add Up

The habits that make a difference don't take much effort. Give your car a once-over before a trip. Slow down when the weather's bad. Say something if you spot a safety issue. These aren't difficult tasks, but they do take intention.

Accidents rarely happen because someone made one huge mistake. It's usually a series of little ones. Thinking ahead, even briefly, can be enough to avoid real damage. National Safety Month is a great reminder to reset your attention. Stay alert. Stay consistent. Notice more.

If you or someone close to you has been injured because safety wasn't taken seriously, we're here to help. Getting back on track starts with knowing someone's in your corner.

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING
GRATITUDE FROM THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

"I was hit by a car while traveling in Florida, U.S.A. To a foreigner with language barriers like me, my lawyer Randall Austin finally succeeded in helping me to obtain a relatively large amount of compensation, which can help me with my future recuperation and life. Reasonable compensation is also a kind of comfort to me psychologically. This really allows me to start a new chapter of life with a positive heart. At Marc L. Shapiro P.A., I experienced a successful legal journey!"

—Doris

"Marc and his team truly care, and they handle so many different legal needs that arise during our lives. They are big enough to handle the LARGEST cases, but small enough to care about helping each client no matter what the possible settlement money is."

—Bam Bam

"Our experience with The Law Office of Marc L. Shapiro was great! The staff was very friendly and helpful during our stressful and difficult case. Randall Austin represented our family amazingly."

—Kelly

"He was very welcoming and knowledgeable. My wife has autism, and Randall was very patient with her and communicated the process in ways for her to understand, which made her feel safe and lessened her anxiety. My family is very grateful to Randall and the entire staff for representing us and walking us through the entire process, which led to a successful end to our stressful case. Thank you!"

—Giovanni

"Mark and his Team did a great job. I highly recommend. Thank you for all the help through the difficult time."

—Brad

"Marc Shapiro and his team provided a seamless experience during a very difficult time. Katie, in particular, was exceptional throughout the entire process. She is knowledgeable, prompt, and kind. She provided frequent updates on my case and answered all my questions. Kelsea was also very informative and helpful. I highly recommend this firm."



Ingredients

- 4 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes (optional, to taste)
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 lb angel hair pasta
- 1 cup fresh basil
- 2 cups freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- Cooked, chopped chicken for serving (optional)

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, garlic, olive oil, red pepper flakes, salt, and black pepper and toss until well coated.
2. Cover and let the mixture sit at room temperature while the pasta cooks.
3. Add pasta to a pot of boiling water and cook per package directions until al dente.
4. Drain the pasta, reserving 1/4 cup of the pasta water to add to the tomato mixture.
5. Coarsely chop the basil leaves.
6. Add the pasta, Parmesan cheese, and chopped basil to the tomato mixture and toss again until combined.
7. Serving suggestion: Add cooked, chopped chicken for more protein!

Word Search



ADVENTURE	HIKING	PRIDE
BAREFOOT	JUNETEENTH	SANDALS
FATHER	PARK	SUNBURN
GEMINI	PICNIC	VOLUNTEER