

Ex-Actor Makes Comeback

— Case 79 —

Young men and women leaving small towns in the Midwest and heading for Hollywood in search of fame and fortune are common subjects in novels and movie scripts – a few actually do become rich and famous. Marty Kolinsky seems to have found even greater fame by reversing the process and leaving Hollywood for a small town in Oklahoma ... and all he had to do was die.

In the 1930s, Kolinsky did find fortune, but not fame. He enjoyed several glamorous careers after he changed his last name to Martyn. He was a dancer on Broadway, an actor in movies, and a talent agent who hobnobbed with Glen Ford, Rita Hayworth, and other celebrities. He became wealthy enough to live in mansions with large swimming pools, be chauffeured around Beverly Hills in his custom-made Rolls Royce, and travel the world via ocean liner; but after his death, the name Marty Martyn became no more than a footnote in dusty cinema archives. No doubt it would have remained in obscurity had not a three-year-old boy in Warner, Oklahoma, begun telling his mother about a life working in the movies.

Ryan Hammons generally spoke to his mother, Cyndi, as his bedtime neared. After a while, she started taking notes of statements such as: “I liked it better when I was big.” and “I just can’t live in these conditions. My last home was much better.” When the sight of an outdoor café prompted the child to claim that he had visited the Eiffel Tower, he responded to his mother’s doubts with, “When are you going to listen to me? I have

seen the world.” Ryan’s father, Kevin, a police officer whose upbringing was incompatible with the idea of reincarnation, counts 102 separate statements made by his son about a past life – 90 of which were ultimately verified.

Mostly, Ryan talked about living and working in Hollywood. While looking through some books on movies that his mother had gotten from the library, Ryan excitedly pointed to a picture of a man talking with actor George Raft, and said, “Hey Mama, that’s George. We did a picture together. And Mama, that guy’s me. I found me!”

Trouble was, “me” was unidentified in the outline of the photograph and Ryan never recalled his previous name. It took several years and the professional assistance of an archival footage consultant to discover that the person Ryan pointed to was Marty Martyn. Later, when his father, who had not been told the real name, was asked to read aloud a list of similar sounding names, Ryan indicated that Marty Martyn was the right one. In the interim, the case was investigated by Jim B. Tucker, M.D., who has taken up the work of Ian Stevenson at the University of Virginia. Tucker’s 31-page presentation of the case is the most thorough so far. Also, the pilot of a revival of the television show, *The UnXplained*, featured Ryan’s story, as have several newspaper articles.¹

Here are some of the more pertinent and convincing of the 90 matches between Ryan Hammons’ statements made between the ages of 3 and 6, and facts unearthed about the life of Marty Martyn, as discovered in archives and interviews.

Ryan’s Claims About His Past Life	Facts of Marty Martyn’s Life
<i>Night After Night (from which the picture of Martyn and Raft was taken) had a scene in which there was a closet full of guns.</i>	<i>There is such a scene in the 1930 movie. Ryan had never seen any black-and-white movie.</i>

<i>He was friends with a cowboy who was also in Night After Night, and did cigarette commercials.</i>	<i>An actor in the movie, named Gordon Nance, also starred in westerns and was a spokesman for Viceroy cigarettes.</i>
<i>Had a daughter and there were other children in his family.</i>	<i>When Martyn's daughter was interviewed, she confirmed that she was his only natural offspring, but that there were five step children in his family. Martyn died when his daughter was 8 years old.</i>
<i>Gave his daughter a dog, but she didn't like it.</i>	<i>Martyn gave his daughter a Yorkshire Terrier that she did not like.</i>
<i>Brought the children coloring books.</i>	<i>He often brought elaborate coloring books to his children.</i>
<i>Visited Paris and saw the Eiffel Tower</i>	<i>Visited France several times.</i>
<i>Visited China, also loved Chinese food and eating with chopsticks.</i>	<i>Trip to China unverified, but Martyn loved to eat with chopsticks in Chinatown restaurants. Ryan never saw chopsticks until he was taken to a Chinese restaurant in Hollywood. He refused flatware and his father was astounded at the dexterity he demonstrated eating with chopsticks.</i>
<i>Traveled the world on ocean liners.</i>	<i>Went to Europe on the Queen Mary.</i>
<i>Lived in a large house with a swimming pool.</i>	<i>Martyn's last residence was a mansion with a large outdoor pool.</i>
<i>Address of his home contained "rock" or "mount."</i>	<i>Address was 825 N. Roxbury.</i>
<i>Was involved with an agency that changed people's names.</i>	<i>Although his parents first thought that Ryan was fantasizing about some sort of spy organization, it turned out that Martyn operated a talent agency and would have given people stage names.</i>
<i>Had been a dancer early in his career.</i>	<i>Danced in Broadway shows.</i>
<i>Spoke of two different sisters.</i>	<i>Had two sisters.</i>
<i>His mother had curly brown hair.</i>	<i>Confirmed.</i>
<i>Was a smoker.</i>	<i>Smoked cigars and cigarettes.</i>
<i>Liked to drink Tru Ade.</i>	<i>Tru Ade soft drinks were no longer made at the time Ryan was born.</i>

For a period of time during the investigation, it was thought that the man in the photograph with George Raft was an actor named Ralf Harolde. When young Ryan was taken to place where Harolde had resided and asked if anything looked familiar, he showed no recognition.



Ryan and his father in Chinatown during Hollywood filming

There are many similarities between this case and that of James Leininger [#65], and they do not all concern a previous incarnation. Both children talked of monitoring their parents prior to their birth. As Dr. Tucker tells the story: "When Ryan's parents married, they decided they would only have one child because Kevin already had two from his first marriage. Cyndi very much wanted a daughter. Ryan came over to Cyndi one night and asked why she had thought he was going to be a little girl. When she asked him who

told him that, he said no one told him and that he saw it from heaven. He said, 'This doctor guy did a test and told you I was a boy. You got mad and said he was wrong. You just knew that I was going to be a girl. Mommy, it was Daddy's birthday, you went to a restaurant afterward to eat and you cried for a very long time.' Cyndi reports everything happened just as Ryan said. She had always regretted the way she acted that day."²

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[A Survival-Top-40 case](#)

¹ The sources for this case write-up are: (a) *Return to Life: Extraordinary Cases of Children Who Remember Past Lives*, book by Jim B. Tucker, M.D., St. Martin's Press, 2013, pp. 88-119. (b) "Show follows local child who says he lived earlier life as Hollywood actor," article by Wendy Burton in *The Muskogee Phoenix*, 21 May 2011. (c) "Reincarnation and the problem of an open mind," article by John Leonard on the *Examiner.com* website, posted 5 January 2012, based on the *Unexplained* television show (which is not currently available).

² Tucker, p. 97.