

Philip Martin

Philip Martin is a columnist and the chief film critic for Arkansas's largest daily newspaper, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. He edits the newspaper film-oriented Friday *Style* section and is the immediate past president of the Southeastern Film Critics Association (SEFCA).

Martin has worked for the newspaper since 1993, covering a wide variety of topics, including politics and sports, but he is primarily known as a cultural critic. He has written two books of essays, *The Shortstop's Son* and *The Artificial Southerner*, and — with Rex Nelson — a biography of Hillary Clinton, *The Hillary Factor*. His latest book, *The President Next Door: Poems, Songs and Journalism*, was published by Et Alia Press in 2016.

Martin has won more than 50 regional and national awards for his columns and criticism at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, including two Green Eyeshade Awards and five Great Plains Journalism Awards. Before coming to the *Democrat-Gazette*, Martin was the executive editor of *Spectrum Weekly*. He was an investigative reporter in Phoenix, ran a small chain of newspapers in Texas, and was a columnist for the *Shreveport Journal*. His first job was as sports editor and chief photographer for a small daily newspaper in Louisiana.

Martin is also a songwriter who won the 1981 Kentucky Fried Chicken National Songwriting contest, which led to an appearance on *The Merv Griffin Show*. He has released two albums of original music, *Gastonia* (2013) and *Euclid Avenue* (2014) on his own label, strangeup records. His third album, tentatively titled *Dog Justice*, is scheduled for release in 2017.

Martin lives in Little Rock's Hillcrest neighborhood with his wife (and editor) Karen, and three rescued terriers: Paris, Dublin and Audi.

I don't know exactly how long I've taught at LifeQuest. I would guess about a decade. I suspect I get more from our discussions than

I am an autodidact with two years of law school and a BA from LSU.

Three things about me:

1. I never took a high school English class.
2. I once played guitar and sang on *The Merv Griffin Show*.
3. I played a season of professional baseball in Brazil.