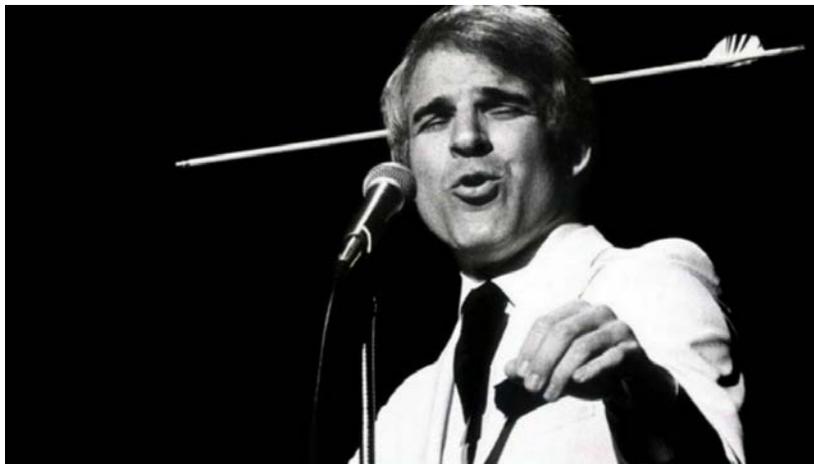


**This interview with  
STEVE MARTIN  
was conducted by the Library of Congress  
on September 1, 2016**



*Steve Martin*

**LOC: Unlike many comedy albums of the era—and since, I think—“Wild & Crazy” was made up of recordings from at least two different shows/performances. Why did you choose to do that?**

SM: We had recordings from both smaller venues and larger venues. We--meaning William E. McEuen [the album’s producer] and myself--opposed them on the A and B side to contrast and compare the comedy that was appropriate for each situation.

**LOC: Were there specific set pieces/bits that you left out of the recording?**

SM: Yes, but I don’t remember what they were. We put on everything that was appropriate.

**LOC: Did you worry about how material in your stand-up was going to translate to record form?**

SM: I did, but the silent gaps while people were laughing at something visual piqued the interest of the listener.

**LOC: Today, of course, it’s been called both controversial and epidemic but what role did political correctness play—if any at all—in preparing your material?**

SM: At the time, I thought a boorishness on my part was essential to my “character” onstage. So I could be intentionally politically incorrect.

**LOC: You conclude the album of course with “King Tut” and you are very talented musician but you aren’t really known as a song satirist or anything of that ilk. Is there a reason you did not pursue that genre more?**

SM: I always thought “King Tut” was a one-off, and I was not inclined to do more in that vein.

**LOC: I think there's a certain "meta"-ness to your stand-up. Why did this type of comedy hit so well at this particular time?**

SM: I was inspired by my studies in philosophy in college to pursue an abstract quality. I do think the audience's response was propelled by a longing for comedy that was not "message" oriented.

**LOC: How much did the arrival of "Saturday Night Live" play in your career and development as a comedian? (I'm not sure many people realize you weren't a regular.)**

SM: "Saturday Night Live" was a major catalyst in moving my career to the next level.