



**Martin Strel**

### **Topics and Title**

Marathon Swimmer & Motivational Speaker

### **Background History**

Martin Strel - a renowned professional marathon swimmer, Guinness record breaker and promoter of peace, friendship and clean waters. He has been described as the World's greatest Marathon Swimmer! He has swum the 5 greatest rivers in the world, the Amazon, Yangtze, Paraná, Mississippi and the Danube.

Martin comes from the small country of Slovenia on the South Eastern part of Europe and spends a good part of his life in the water. He taught himself to swim when he was 6, in a small stream, and became a professional marathon swimmer in 1978. Earlier in his life, he was a successful guitar player. He still plays a guitar nowadays a little. He started out swimming in the World Cup and later doing a great deal of individual swimming marathons. The extraordinary feats of Martin have surpassed the boundaries of sports.

### **Areas of Expertise**

Martin is a man of action in the water and his unique swimming challenges are the inspiration to many people around the world. No man in the history of long distance swimming has done what Martin has done.

With his endurance and determination, Martin brings together individuals, nations and even continents. His projects do not focus only on great sports achievements, he also promotes the environmental messages. He drives himself beyond the limits, always looking for new, breath-taking extreme challenges.

He has received many special recognitions. Among the more notable are support from Mr. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. William Perry, the former American Secretary of Defense, Mr. Daniel Scioli, the Vice-President of Argentina and others.

When you see Martin Strel live on the stage, you won't believe he is a swimmer. He looks more like a bear, but after his speaking/acting performance you'll understand why he has become known as "Big River Man".

Many people still cannot believe what he has done so far, so that's why they sometimes describe him as "Daredevil", "Fishman", "Human Fish" or even "The Craziest Man in the World".

Martin has been featured in many prominent magazines and newspapers from around the world and his swims are covered by the world's biggest news broadcasters, including CNN, BBC, NBC, ABC and Sky News. New York Times compared Martin with Sir Edmund Hillary who first climbed Mount Everest.

American filmmakers are producing a feature-length documentary called Big River Man about Martin's life and his Amazon Swim challenge. Martin's book The Man Who Swam the Amazon has been released in many countries.

Martin speaks about Extreme Mental and Physical Preparation, Self-Motivation, Endurance, Goal Setting, Determination, Team Work and Clean Waters. He integrates stories from his own experiences and achievements to illustrate two important messages: "No one knows your capability as well as you do" and "Only you know how far you can go." He explains how he mentally prepares himself for his feats and turns his dreams into reality by never giving up. His big river journeys are mostly the journeys of his mind and the silence is his music. Lastly, you'll understand what makes him to do it all over again, even if it's deadly dangerous.

Martin's presentations are not focused only on great solo sports achievements, but also on the environmental messages he has devoted his career to promoting. His live talks on the stage are accompanied by attractive multimedia video presentations about his challenges.

Apart from his time on stage, Martin is happy to support the event with social or other interactions such as dinners or group activities.

#### **Client Comments;**

"We really enjoyed Martin's presentation and speaking. His physical and mental challenges are incredible and he was a great inspiration for us."

**HSBC bank HQ, London**

"Very, very inspiring! Planet needs more people like Martin Strel."

**St.Cloud University, MN, USA**

"Martins stories of swimming the Amazon are some of the most fascinating tales I have ever heard."

**Will Steger, legendary polar explorer**

"When Martin talks about swimming he describes the south-east headwind he had on the Mississippi as "like a hammer on the head", then he thumps his forehead with his fist to show what he means."

**Sam Wollaston, The Guardian**

"The two main reasons why we invited Martin are; a clearly defined goal and the great team(s) he has around. This is essential for the final goal."

**Andreas Seeger, Senior Vice President DTAG Account, T-Systems Germany**

"The presentation has made a strong effect on me, it was felt all the intensity of martin's feelings while he was telling us stories about his challenge."

**Roger Schmidbauer, Marketing and Communication department, T-Systems**

"I loved the presentation. It was amazing, very inspirational. Martin is a very down-toearth individual. No ego!"

**Tom Atkins, Technical manager, T-Mobile Washington**

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