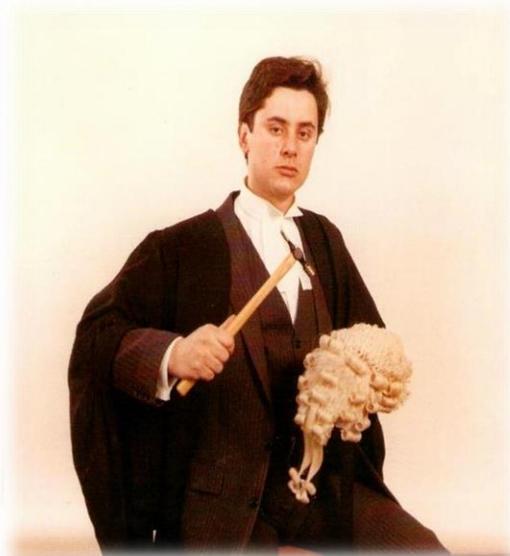


My website is called SparkAstrology.com in honour of Uranus, signifying a moment of ultimate clarity, the spark of enlightenment that awakens all astrologers. Uranus is angular in my chart, unsurprisingly, and is also strong in SparkAstrology.com's chart, rising as it does in the first house.

IAM: It's well-known that you are doing a great job for the *Astrological Association of Great Britain*? Can you share with Us how it all started and when? You are also collaborating with the *Astrological Lodge of London*? Do you have in your chart something over 21 of mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius or Pisces)? Or, was something there in your progressions when the collaboration started?

MM: My chart ruler, Venus, sits at 23 Virgo, and my North Node sits at 20 Pisces, in my Sixth House. There is a lot of synastry between my chart and that of the AA. Jupiter was transiting my First House when the collaboration started, a planet that I see as signifying this grand and noble organisation. When Jupiter entered Libra in 2016 I challenged myself to seize every opportunity that came my way, even if I doubted the outcome. I'm happy to report that this approach worked out beautifully for me. The AA was looking for a student officer, I made some proposals for how I would engage students, and, as they say, the rest is history.

The Astrological Lodge is my home. The Lodge is really the pre-cursor of the AA, from a historical perspective. I've been a regular for several years, and I've built a relationship with many patrons there, so it's natural for me to want to help it grow and spread the love of astrology further in the London area. To date my practical contribution has been limited, but I have plans for the website and to enhance engagement with members.



IAM: Why does the editor of the *Astrological Journal*, Victor Olliver, call you „**SUPER LIBRA**“?

MM: As well as the Ascendant in Libra, I also have five planets in the same sign – Sun, Moon, Mercury, Jupiter, and Uranus. You see, I am very Libran, except that my Mercury-Uranus conjunction makes me less diplomatic and indecisive than your average Libra. I'm often abrupt, unsubtle, and quick in my decisions. I'm also rather impatient, with an angular and out-of-bounds Mars in Capricorn, so it's a good thing that I can act promptly!

IAM: What does *Italy* mean to you?

MM: The first thing that springs to mind when I think of Italy is *SUNSHINE*! I love and miss sunshine, after about twenty years in Grey Britain. I am, however, very fond of living in London, and I can't see myself ever moving back to Italy. Once you get used to the UK's open-mindedness, can-do attitude, and customer service, the thought of going back to Italy fills me with dread. My siblings' misadventures with Italian public services and work conditions are a constant reminder of why I'm happier here.

IAM: You will be a speaker at the upcoming 50th AA Conference *#Diamonds in the Sky*. It must be such a big event for you, if we take the fact that AA celebrates in 2018 its 60th Solar Return. What will be your topic and how do you feel about all this?

MM: This goes back to my Jupiter return earlier in 2017. I received an email invite offering the chance to all to speak at next year's conference, and decided to seize the opportunity, in Jupiter-return style. I will be speaking about social media, with practical tips for astrologers. Many in our field are terrified of these new tools in our

arsenal, and I want to help them embrace them more. I have worked in the field of digital media for many years, so I'm keen to pass on my knowledge, and especially the lessons I learnt with SparkAstrology.com.

IAM: What do you think about your *synastry with IAM*?

MM: Yet another *strong synastry*! IAM's Jupiter and Uranus placements are aligned with my Sun-Moon midpoint. IAM's Mercury and Sun trine mine perfectly. IAM's Moon is on my MC, and IAM's MC is in my Eleventh House. A match made in Heaven!

IAM: Is there maybe some **meaning for your name Marilena**? I wonder what it may mean, because I've decided to call this issue of IAM - #Immortelle, because my name Smiljana means herb immortelle (smilje in Serbian). So, as this is our 1st Solar Return with new name IAM, I think maybe it would be interesting to hear what your name means?

MM: My name is derived from Mary Magdalene, or *Maria Elena*, so it has a biblical reference. Allegedly, Marilena has a variety of meanings in Hebrew, including „Rebelliousness“, which fits me quite well. In Latin it means "Star of the Sea" and in Egyptian „Beloved of the God Amun“. So, you see, I can pick a different meaning depending on my mood!



IAM: At the end, can you use some divination skill and tell Us *what kind of destiny IAM will have during 2018*? For example, to pick one card from tarot deck, or ..., what ever you want to use?

MM: *IAM will be enjoying a Jupiter transit through the first house, like I did last year.* I'll give you the same advice I gave myself – seize all opportunities that come your way, even those that may at first seem unattainable. The Gods are on your side this year. May you thrive, grow, and reach new heights with the help of Jupiter!

Thank you, Smiljana! ☺



My name is **Marilena**, and I am a professional astrologer. Astrology has been my passion for almost thirty years. I collaborate closely with both the Astrological Lodge of London and the Astrological Association, two of the world's most prestigious and longest running astrological organisations. I'm also a contributor to magazines, including the Astrological Journal and IAM – Infinity Astrological Magazine. You can view some of my work for the Astrological Association on the Astrological Association's channel on YouTube, in the Student Corner. I will publish more video interviews with master astrologers in due course, so subscribing to the channel will ensure you are notified of any new uploads. If you're interested in my training, I'm a past student of the London School of Astrology. There I had the honour of learning from some of the leading lights in the field, including Frank Clifford, Darby Costello, Melanie Reinhart, Lynn Bell, Mark Jones, and Wendy Stacey, to name just a few. I'm currently studying advanced horary at Deborah Houlding's School of Traditional Astrology, under the tutorship of Wade Caves. I can provide both one-off sessions or ongoing mentoring and guidance, depending on your needs and finances. Please feel free to get in touch for friendly, confidential advice on whatever is weighing on your mind. Details of the types of readings available can be found under Personal Astrology.

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