



# Astro-X-Ray: Maurice Fernandez

President of the Organization for Professional Astrology in the U.S., Maurice has developed a worldwide network as author, teacher, counsellor, and conference organiser, notably the celebrated River of Stars Astrology Conference in Hawaii

**Q: When did you first realise that astrology had completely taken possession of you – if indeed it has?**

MF: Around age 19, a lady who had her Sun exactly on my Ascendant, her Moon exactly on my Sun, and her Ascendant exactly on my Moon asked me to teach her astrology. When I referred her to more experienced astrologers, she said it had to be me because I spoke French, and she was French. That was the first sign of not being able to get away from it.

**Q: Briefly describe your office and the view from the principal window, if any.**

MF: Currently in the midst of renovations, so lots of boxes everywhere and serenaded by hammering bangs. The view is beautiful...2<sup>nd</sup> floor overlooking pine trees and the sunset.

**Q: Which one aspect in your birth chart sums up a key trait known to loved ones?**

MF: people tend to first respond to my Cancer rising, and find me teddybearishly sweet, until they spend longer moments with me and get to the Mars/Saturn/Mercury t-square...only few proceed to step three!

**Q: Do you support professionalisation of astrology, y'know, the diplomas and whatnot? Or do you foresee homogenised astro-sausages, like lawyers and doctors?**

MF: In a way that honours astrology for its unique qualities. Diplomas provide mentorship that is essential for professional practice. But I'm not in favour of rigid standards that would dry up the spiritual nature of astrology. We need our astrology historians, scientists, and mystics to have a generous range for creativity, research, and diversity. We would fail astrology otherwise.

**Q: How did you learn the astro art?**

MF: If you want to learn something, teach it!

**Q: You're the President of the Organization for Professional Astrology based in the US – tell us something of its aims and membership numbers. Is it a full-time job for you?**

MF: It is by all means a full-time job. OPA has about 600 members today, and continues to grow steadily. We have a rich menu of online and on-location programs for beginners and pros. The fundamental aims of OPA are accessibility, reliability and sustainability for astrology.

**Q: OPA is very active in bringing people together – tell us of the 'atmosphere' of these events. To the British mind, they seem what we term 'touchy-feely' (i.e. spiritually connected).**

MF: the 'OPA Retreats' offer 12 tracks with a maximum of 10 people per track – this means intimate learning within a large community gathering. It is quite effective!

Another OPA signature program is called the 'Peer Group' where we want professional astrologers to actually meet (groups of five). In the course of three days, we take down our defences and discuss issues we had with clients, we do each other's charts, and then we discuss our future goals. Indeed, quite lovey-dovey touchy-feely (with exceptions!).

**Q: What are your thoughts on the apparent growing popularity of 'traditional' astrology? What do you think may account for this?**

MF: I see that astrology development is largely influenced by Uranus/Saturn cycles, as well as Uranus/North Node cycles. We went deep into psychology and Jung when Liz Greene and Stephen Arroyo released their books in late the 70s as Uranus transited the North Node in Scorpio. In the early 90s, Saturn/Uranus conjoined the North Node in Capricorn and Project Hindsight was initiated to translate old texts, reviving traditional astrology in this process.

I believe that the popularity of traditional astrology stems from the fact that this research was conducted with greater academic rigor and elevated the standards of study to a whole new level, something that inspired many people who were yearning for more credibility. But most of us are well aware that modern and traditional astrology complement each other. Saturn and Uranus may seem to be at each other's throat (or genitals) but they can't do without each other.

**Q: Does astrology pay the bills? OPA brought out a book [*The Professional Astrologer*] on how to make money from being an astrologer. What's your impression of progress in this respect?**

MF: The internet makes that possible more than ever before. Astrologers have access to worldwide audiences, and yes, with enough drive, it pays the bills. Our event, 'I-Astrologer', is all about that.

**Q: Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, please tell all.**

MF: You limited me to 750 words, so it won't be a tell-all...the answer is I have not seen a ghost, but I had a fight with one. It was scary and bizarre. Mars retrograde was in Pisces conjunct Uranus...quite descriptive of fighting ghost.

**Q: And finally, Maurice, would you say you are powerful?**

MF: I wear my galactic cape for special occasions.

[www.mauricefernandez.com](http://www.mauricefernandez.com) [www.opaastrology.org](http://www.opaastrology.org)