

SIDE BY SIDE • MEANDERIN' • WHAT A WAY TO GO! • THE JUST DINO HOUR

JustDino

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THE RAT PACK

Examining the legacies of the greatest stars of all time.

MARK HALLIDAY
THE TUCSON OPEN
PETER LAWFORD
JOEY BISHOP

plus

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DIRECT FROM THE BAR

COVER STORY

4 The Rat Pack and Its Enduring Legacy

FEATURES

6 Roles To Play

7 Why Is the Rat Pack Still Around?

8 Dino's Brand

10 Those Other Guys

REGULARS

3 Side by Side

6 The DMA Listening Booth: "Me and My Shadow"

9 Movie Moments: *What A Way To Go!*

12 Meanderin'

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"*Just Dino* is the exclusive and fully-authorized newsletter published only by us in the UK, and distributed worldwide since November 1960. The Dean Martin Association is totally lionized to the man himself, his life and career. Wherever you live, whoever you are, I dedicate your Association to Dean Martin and to you –as you support us by being a valued member."

Bernard H Thorpe
Co-founder, President (1960-2015) and
Chief Executive (1960-2015)



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Jerry Lewis famously said what he had with Dean was lightning in a bottle - and indeed it was.

It was in that formative partnership that Dean honed his craft, developed his persona and revealed to the world what an amazing star he was.

That lightning was to strike again with the advent of the Rat Pack.

A careful observer of the antics of the Rat Pack will notice similarities in jokes, the gags and the styling to the Martin and Lewis years. Once again Dean was front and centre on stage surrounded by great talent. Not only did he compliment the talent but he brought his own inimitable joyful zest to the other talent, and as has been said he was the glue that held the pack together or, as Dean said, they were the rats and he was the pack.

Perhaps that's one of the reasons for Dean's enjoyability.

His ability to be instantly likeable, captivating and self depreciating, coupled with assured confidence that didn't teeter into arrogance. There on that stage was a man to be admired and to be enjoyed and to be emulated.

In this edition you'll find another selection

of reflections on the man that we all enjoy and admire, so ably expressed by our team of contributors.

Amongst the articles we share with you, we consider his time with the Rat Pack itself and take trip down memory lane with one of Dean's very favorite hobbies: golf tournaments.

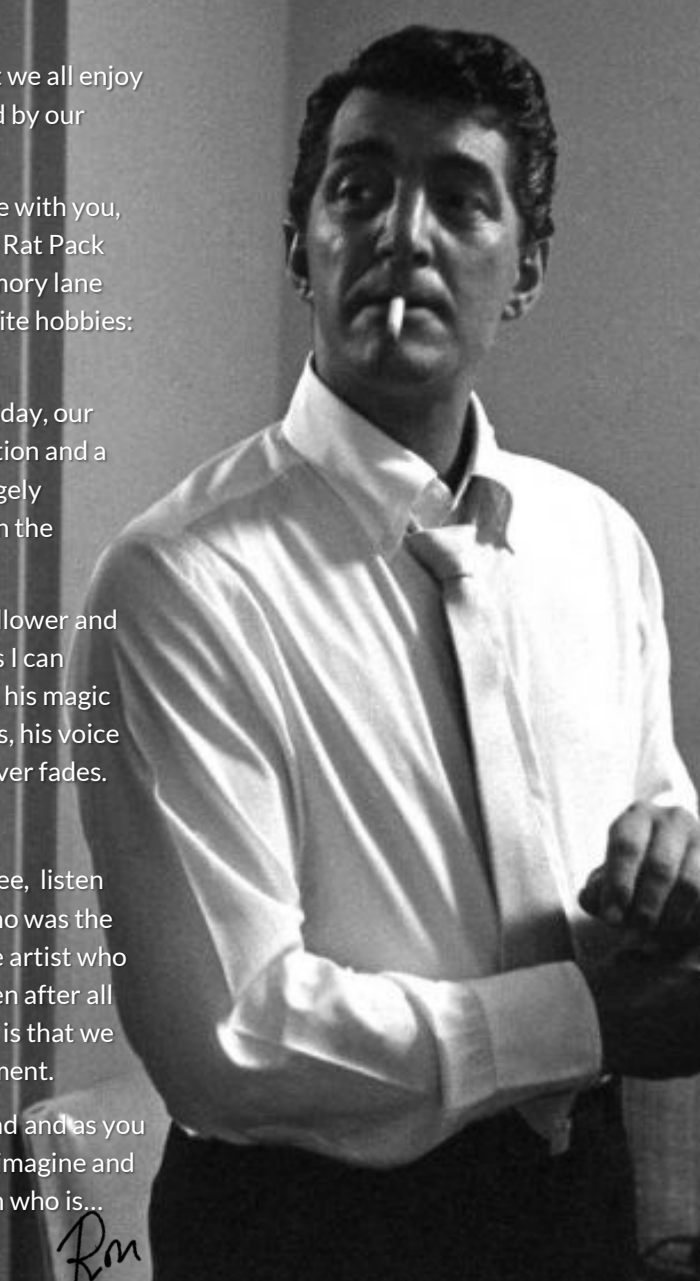
We also hear from Mark Halliday, our guest contributor for this edition and a man who has carved out a hugely successful career of his own in the entertainment industry.

Having been a listener and follower and admirer of Dean for as long as I can remember, at least 50 years, his magic never fails his light never dims, his voice never falters and his smile never fades.

Why do I like Dean so much?

The answer, just watch and see, listen and absorb, enjoy the man who was the consummate entertainer. The artist who not only entertains us but even after all these long years make us feel is that we become part of his entertainment.

So once again sit back and read and as you read, listen and as you listen imagine and as you imagine, enjoy the man who is... Mr Dean Martin.



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THE RAT PACK

and its enduring legacy

THOMAS BRADY
raises a glass,
toasting the coolest guys
who ever lived.

Here at The Dean Martin Association we would be amiss if we did not celebrate the coolest group that has ever graced the face of the earth. If you are a Dino fan, then you know exactly who I am talking about already: The Rat Pack.

When you picture Las Vegas in the 1950s and 1960s you would be hard pressed not to have the Rat Pack spring to mind. The group was synonymous with Las Vegas, and more specifically, the Sands Hotel & Casino.

If the walls of the Copa room could have talked, oh boy, the stories they could have told! It was said that Dean was never happier than when he was performing in Las Vegas. This happiness must have been ten-fold when he was performing with Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr.

But the Rat Pack started in a completely different way to how we know it today. Let me take you back to the 1940s. Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra, Cary Grant, and other big names of the Golden Age of Hollywood were partying and generally being raucous with Bogart. Upon walking in on this scene, Lauren Bacall, Bogart's wife, was noted to have said, 'You look like a goddamn rat pack!'

Well, like all good nicknames and monikers, it stuck like glue. Humphrey Bogart was at the helm of what then became known as The Rat Pack.

After Bogart's untimely death in 1957, Frank Sinatra took up position at the head of the group. At one point, Frank, not being a fan of the name, tried to change it to The Clan, but, well, suffice it to say, Sammy was not a fan and Sinatra, realizing his error, decided The Summit was probably a better name. 'The Summit' sounded like a big meeting of world leaders, or a meeting of brilliant minds and Frank loved it. However, the media not so much and it seemed The Rat Pack was a far catchier name and so it remained. Interestingly, at one point it was also known as the Sinatra Friendship Circle.

The members changed over the years, before finally falling on who we know them as today.

In January of 1960, production started on what would become a box-office hit and arguably one of the coolest movies around, *Ocean's 11*. Some of you might be wondering how old George Clooney really is now, but I'm talking about the original version featuring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr, Peter Lawford, Joey Bishop, and Angie Dickinson. What a cast!

Ocean's 11 was the epitome of coolness. Las Vegas never looked better, the cast were in their prime, a new decade was just beginning.

It was during the shooting of this film that Frank, Sammy, Dean, Joey, and Peter would become the best-known line-up of The Rat Pack. They became inseparable and performed a couple of shows at the famous Copa Room of the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas in the build up to the release of the movie.

These shows were sold out. Hollywood's *crème-de-la-crème* were in attendance: it was a show not to be missed.



[Getty Images]

If I could travel back in time to watch an event, you could bet your bottom dollar I would be sitting in the front row at this show.

Frank, Dean, and Sammy were all flying high and had that wonderful confidence on stage that made watching them such a treat. There are a few live recordings of them at the Copa Room on YouTube which are a pure treat to watch. You can just tell they had just as much fun and enjoyment as the audience did and in these 60 years since, we are still enjoying them! God Bless whoever decided it was worth filming those shows because they have become clips

of the coolest era to have been and of some of the coolest celebrities to have graced Hollywood.

It was in these Copa Room shows and *Ocean's 11* that the Rat Pack really came to light. I think we all know that famous photo of Frank, Sammy, Dean, Joey, and Peter stood in front of the Sands Hotel sign and that photo just encapsulates that 1960s era of cool. The Sands hotel sign was added to or changed many times over the years, but the original sign was lost when it was replaced which was such a massive outrage that The Neon Sign Museum in Las Vegas opened which was dedicated to saving the old neon signs of Vegas and putting them on display.

The Rat Pack left such a mark on Las Vegas that even today there is a plaque outside the former Sands Hotel site commemorating that exact photo and depicting roughly where each member stood.

As we know, in 1996 The Sands Hotel & Casino was demolished. It made way for The Venetian but nothing in Las Vegas will ever come close to the fame and glamour that The Sands hotel boasted. The Sands should have been a protected building! Imagine stepping inside that Copa Room. You would have felt such a connection to The Rat Pack, I'm sure. Dean, Frank, and Sammy did many shows together, laughing, drinking, singing, and clowning on each other. But they were serious friends and had a strong bond. Back then, not every venue liked having black entertainers and if this was the case, Dean and Frank would say it was all three of them performing or none. Famously, Dean Martin declined an invitation from John F. Kennedy to attend his inauguration. It came to light that Sammy had married May Britt the previous year and interracial marriage would likely not be accepted by the southern states at that time, so Kennedy asked Sammy not to attend to not hurt his campaign. Dean seeing the injustice, did not want to attend to side with his friend Sammy.

This group left such a mark on the world of music and entertainment that even today there are several Rat Pack tribute acts that recreate the joy the entertainers brought. Of course, it could never be the same, but to just have an ounce of that feeling of seeing the Rat Pack is good enough for most. People still clamor for Rat Pack memorabilia, records, videos...you name it, the people want it. *Ocean's 11* had the remake but even with Clooney at the helm, it still could never make a mark against the original Rat Pack version.

These entertainers left such a legacy behind them that is hard to beat, and I think entertainers today are still striving to make that same mark on the entertainment industry. 60-something years later and Frank, Sammy, and Dean are just as cool as they were when they trod the boards of the soft-lit, smoky, intimate Copa Room of the Sands Hotel. **JD**



THE M ALIST ENING BOOTH

ME AND MY SHADOW by MARISA LAVINS

During the height of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, the Rat Pack were not ones to shy away from supporting the movement, or their dear friend Sammy Davis Jr. Close friends both personally and professionally, Sinatra consistently would look out for Sammy at events and venues, ensuring that he was given the care and attention he deserved. If this was not fulfilled, Sinatra, nor the rest of the Rat Pack would not be performing.

Recorded for Reprise in 1962, "Me and My Shadow" features a wonderful duet between Frank and Sammy.

Originally written in 1926, the new and updated 60s version has a very different style and voicing in comparison to the original. This song has a hard swing beat to it, with the vocalists supported by a boisterous full jazz band. Sinatra and Davis' voices blend beautifully together, with Sinatra taking on the lower register while Davis hones his talent as an incredible tenor vocalist. When listening to the studio recording, particularly towards the end, you can hear the rapport and the true admiration they had for each other.

This banter also mimics the Rat Pack's live shows, with Sinatra and Davis joking with each other and having a wonderful time.

The pair performed this song live on *The Frank Sinatra Show* in 1958, and I do highly recommend watching this live performance. One can see that Sinatra and Davis were truly great friends, and the music they made together will still be heard in years to come. **JD**

**ME AND MY SHADOW
SAMMY'S SONG**
reprise 6 | JUST DINO 420

ROLES to play

The Rat Pack was the sum of its parts.

ELLIOT THORPE

considers what the key members each brought to the table.



Sinatra was called Chairman of the Board because of his status within Reprise Records. It had nothing to do with his position as self-appointed leader of the legendary Rat Pack.

Nevertheless, he called the shots in both cases. There's a great response from Dean when he was talking about appearing on stage at one point: he was only there because Frank told him he had to be!

It's this tongue-in-cheek retort that belied an element of control that Sinatra wanted to convey, was able to convey. As a result, he was the guy that got things done. He'd pull everyone together to make a movie, to play at the Sands, to stand up for Sammy's rights, to work in the recording studio. After all, someone had to be in charge, and Sinatra wasn't the kind of person who would be told what to do. If anyone was going to do the telling, it'd be him!

Dean on the other hand, was quite literally the opposite. This wasn't to say he was ever Sinatra's patsy, but he knew his mind and knew what he wanted to do. Simply, he was less inclined to be actively pursuing engagements or film roles: he'd be quite happy to be approached, and from there he'd say yes or no. He would very easily say no to Sinatra if it wasn't something he was comfortable with or didn't interest him. On stage he'd be the joker, but he wouldn't be the fool. He'd usually be the only one who'd never finish a song, would parody the lyrics and even interrupt Frank or Sammy's solo performances. He was there to have a good time - and he'd make sure everyone else did to.

Sammy was the showman, the all-rounder. He could dance, sing, do impressions, even crack jokes to equal Dean. On many occasions, he and Dean would pair off and ridicule Frank. In many ways, Sammy was the glue of the group, crossing styles and disciplines with veritable ease. It's telling that he is considered one of the 'big three' in the Rat Pack, because, out of the five, he was the most versatile. His influence casts long over the others, and rightly so.

Three hugely talented men; three vastly different styles; three expert entertainers. Together they were something akin to lightning in a bottle. Their like had never been seen before and will never be seen again. **JD**



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Guest contributor **MARK HALLIDAY** answers...

Why is the Rat Pack still around?

"We're looking for newer/younger content..."

"Rat Pack is a bit old hat...the audience isn't there anymore..."

"It's been done, everyone has seen it..."

These are some of the responses I hear from venues when we present them with our award winning Rat Pack show. Want to hear my response? *The proof is in the pudding.*

For the last 15 years we have delivered top quality Rat Pack shows to audiences of all different sizes, from private parties to a sold out 7,000-seat Colne Arena in Germany.

The response is always the same: audiences love this show.

We always get great reviews and the clients we have book the show year after year and people travel all over the country to see us.

The guys that perform our show are specialists that have immersed themselves in the genre and the lives of the guys they are emulating for many years.

They can deliver not only the songs, but the mannerisms, vocal tone and star quality of the originals. They have made it an artform in itself. Not only this, but they have the ability to recreate the moments of comedy and camaraderie for which the Rat Pack were synonymous.

This combination leads an audience to suspend disbelief for a couple of hours and immerse themselves in this nostalgic journey through some of the greatest music ever known and make them feel like they are seeing the 'real thing'. Something not possible today, for obvious reasons.

Oh, and it's a bloody good night out too!

So why *do* venues still have reservations about booking this kind of show? Is it to do with the fact that its older audiences that are inherently interested in Swing/Big Band/Rat Pack music?

Yes, this is true. The "Grey Pound" is one of the most influential markets with more disposable income than any other market sector. And they have the time to book and plan to see shows and interests they may have.

Plus, the success of Michael Bubl  and similar artists has introduced swing to a whole new generation. Or rather, reminded them how much their parents loved it and that they have come to love it too.

Is it to do with the fact that Rat Pack shows have been around for a long time?

Yes, this is also true. Rat Pack shows have been touring theatres for the last 20 years. But if you asked West End producers for shows such as *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *The Lion King* what percentage of their audience was returnees I think you would be very surprised at how high it is.

I myself have seen *Les Mis* about 10 times over the years.

In the same way, if you asked regional 'one nighter' venues the same question I believe you would get the same answer. People return time and time again to see shows which are important to them. It may depict a period of their life or their youth that they love to reminisce about.

Ok, so let's get to the real question...the proof that's in the pudding. *Does it still sell tickets?*

We performed our [new Christmas version of the show](#) at the world renowned Adelphi Theatre in London's West End in December last year.

We had a sold out show of 1400 tickets. We had a line around the block before the show which was very exciting!

Ok, but that's one venue, one night. Does that really tell us anything?

There was another Rat Pack show which took place within a week of ours in another outer London venue. They sold out an evening and matinee show, which means that between us we sold over 3000 tickets for Rat Pack shows, *in the same week*.

Did the audience enjoy the show? See for yourself [here](#).

So, in essence, what do we have?

- ◆ A genre of music and a time that people truly love and love to reminisce.
- ◆ A show with seasoned professionals and an incredible live band to accompany them.
- ◆ A target market which is much coveted and has disposable income.
- ◆ A genre with a long term history of good ticket sales with very recent shows sold out, both in London and in the regional theatres.

I think this enough proof for the pudding...don't you? **JD**

Mark Halliday is Director and Client Liaison at [Veritas Entertainment Ltd](#). He has previously performed as Dean Martin on the London West End stage and beyond.



[Veritas]

Dino's Brand



CINDY WILLIFORD improves her swing with this “A” game of an article, as she looks at Dean Martin’s time hosting the Tucson Open, avoiding the rough before heading off for the 19th Hole...

If there is one lesson we learn from our long-term studying of the life and legacy of Dean Martin, the man had determination. And a very humble determination at that.

Like many of us, he may not have had all of the details lined out to follow in the beginning, but he did have some sort of an idea of where he wanted to end up. I feel like that was the case in several areas of his career, as well as his hobbies.

Dean was passionate about his golf game. It was therapy for him in many ways.

In a DMA article entitled 'My Personal Viewpoint' from November, 1960, Dean says, "Those who know me well are aware that idleness drives me mad. I can't just sit around and wait for things to happen. Those are the days I'm off to the golf course looking for a game of golf."

His determination for the game began after a friend of his invited him to the driving range to hit a bucket of balls. At first, he was awful. But through his sheer persistence, he perfected his skills and went on to become a great golfer.

Through the years, Dean played with folks like Don Cherry, Bob Hope, Sam Snead, Bing Crosby, Lee Trevino, and Arnold Palmer. And while he played at the private courses like the Riviera, it was obvious that his skills and love for the game were under the radar.

But Dean wasn't the only one under the radar. It appears that Dean had been doing his research on pro golf tournaments as well, specifically the Tucson Conquistadores.

It was during the 1970s that celebrities attached their name to golf tournaments. And Dean Martin was in the market to do that very thing. He'd spent a good amount of time asking other pro-golfers about the Conquistadores and their organization. When the Tucson Conquistadores heard that Dean was shopping for a tournament, they sought him out. Dean looked over the list of charities that benefited from the Tournament, which clinched the deal for them.

The initial agreement between Dean and the Conquistadores was negotiated by charter member Manny Drachman, and was penned on a cocktail napkin in the lounge of the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California. The Dean Martin Tucson Open was scheduled as the third stop on the PGA Tour's West Coast celebrity swing for 1972.

Dean hosted the Tucson Open from 1972-75 and with his name on the tournament, it would make the Tucson Open as the only PGA Tour Tournament so far to have periods in its history when it was named after a celebrity. After Dean's reign, Joe Garagiola would host the event.

I had an opportunity to visit with Jacquie Daglio with the Tucson Conquistadores Foundation, who shared with me some of the highlights of that event in January of 1972. She told me

that Dean was every bit a gentle giant during his time at the tournament. The warmth of his smile truly lit up the room. The first year of The Dean Martin Tucson Open was as successful as had been anticipated. The weather for the tournament started out nice, but by the weekend, cold weather had settled in which thinned the crowd a bit. But it also put the Conquistadores work crews to the test. They spent the night at the course keeping the greens thawed. She said that the funniest thing about that first day of the tournament was watching Dean stand making various announcements, wearing his suede shoes while standing on the frosted greens. Smiles and all.

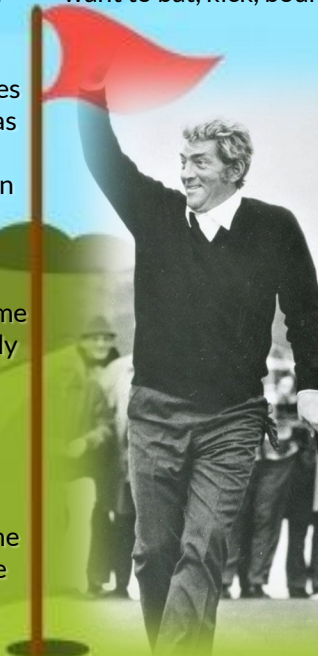


It was during the research of this area of Dean's life that just more or less solidified why so many folks are drawn to him: his huge heart for helping others.

If you remember, as Dean was reviewing the organization, it was the list of charities who would benefit from the funds which were raised at the Tournament.

[The Tucson Conquistadores Foundation](#) is dedicated to the funding and the promotion of youth and special needs athletics in Southern Arizona.

With each charitable gift they can continue to provide clubhouses; balls and bats; batting cages; athletic fee waivers; build gymnasiums and repair the ones they originally built; pay for field lights, umpires/referees; scholarships kids that just want to bat, kick, bounce, swim, run, or pass a ball. **JD**



MOVIE MOMENTS:

"What A Way To Go!"

During the 1960s, Dean Martin was at the height of his career. From hit records, a popular television show, and his ever-growing filmography, he was one of the biggest stars in Hollywood, and one of the most sought after by studios and producers alike. One could not argue that Dean had incredible talent as a performer, particularly as a comedian, making comedic films a regular part of his filmography and career.

His performance in *What A Way To Go!*, along with co-stars Shirley MacLaine, Dick Van Dyke, Paul Newman, Robert Mitchum, and Gene Kelly, does not disappoint and can even act as a lesson in excellent comedic timing and performance.

Filmed in 1963 for 20th Century Fox, *What A Way To Go!* is a dark comedy following Louisa May Foster (Shirley MacLaine) as she recalls the stories of her many marriages to a psychologist after attempting to donate \$211 million dollars to the United States government because she was disgusted by the wealth she inherited from her husbands.

The film follows a fast and entertaining pace, as we are introduced to Louisa May Foster and her first suitor Leonard Crawley (Dean Martin). Leonard is a shrewd and spoiled wealthy businessman whose father owns the town they live in known as "Crawley Ville."

Louisa, longing for a simple life without wealth and marries Edgar Hopper (Dick Van Dyke). However, after being plagued with jealousy over Crawley's fortune, and wanting Louisa to have a better life, Hopper builds his failed family store into a major department store. The subsequent wealth and success that came from this causes their marriage to fall apart.

From there, Louisa marries French artist Larry Flint (Paul Newman), tycoon Rod Anderson Jr. (Robert Mitchum), and clown Pinky Benson (Gene Kelly).

While the film was an overall success, it went through many preproduction changes before landing on the cast that we were given in the final film. First, this film was intended to act as a vehicle for the great Marilyn Monroe.

MARISA LAVINS dives into the darkly comic world of the classic Shirley MacLaine movie, full of glamor, glitz and some very handsome co-stars!

However, due to her tragic death in 1962, the role was ultimately given to Elizabeth Taylor. Dean Martin was not in the original line up of leading men to grace the film, however his good friend Frank Sinatra was at the helm of the original male leads. The rest of the proposed cast was filled out by Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, and Tony Curtis. After several changes, the lead role was ultimately given to Shirley MacLaine, with Dean Martin, Van Dyke, Newman, Mitchum, and Kelly completing the rest of the star-studded cast.

One of the most interesting aspects of this film is that each marriage that Louisa experiences is presented as a parody of a particular movie genre.

For example, the first sequence of the film featuring Louisa and Edgar, played by Dick Van Dyke, acts as a spoof of silent films. Raised in the small town of Danville, Illinois, Dick Van Dyke fell in love with comedy at a young age and longed to imitate his favorite comedians such as Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy. After winning a Tony Award for his performance in the hit Broadway show *Bye Bye Birdie* alongside Chita Rivera, Van Dyke was offered a lead role in Carl Reiner's hit television show *The Dick Van Dyke Show*. This opportunity allowed Van Dyke to showcase his true talent as a master of physical comedy, starting with the ever-famous introduction of his show where he falls effortlessly over an ottoman.

With Van Dyke's talent for imitating the great comedians of our time, this section of the film stands out as one of the funniest. One sequence in particular shows Louisa and Edgar in a black and

white silent movie living a fast paced and fun domestic life. Van Dyke shines in this segment of the film with his use of prat falls and mime depicting the perfect silent comedian.

The next segment of the film features Paul Newman as Larry Flint, a poverty ridden young French artist. This part of the film is meant to act as a spoof of French art films. The colors in this segment are more muted, with more dramatic acting and forlorn outlooks on life and art. As Louisa goes on to marry Rod Anderson Jr. (Robert Mitchum), the film turns into a send-up of the 1960s beach comedies.

Filled with bright colors and lavish parties, this section acted not only as a spoof of current film culture, but of Hollywood culture as well.

The final segment of the film acts as a spoof of musicals, led by the legendary Gene Kelly in a beautifully choreographed musical number with Shirley MacLaine by his side.

You may be wondering what happened to Dean Martin's character in the film, but I think you will have to watch and find out! **JD**



Produced by Arthur P. Jacobs and directed by J. Lee Thompson from a script by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, based on a story by Gwen Davis. Cinematography by Leon Shamroy. Music by Nelson Riddle. Released by 20th Century Fox for Apjac-Orchard Productions. 14 May 1964.



Those Other Guys

Who were Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop? **CINDY WILLIFORD** dares to find out...

Before the formation of what was to be known as “The Rat Pack”, the five men who made up this group, had crossed paths at some point in their careers. Either through nightclub acts, social engagements or business opportunities, there was a link connecting them. If you were to be asked who the members of The Rat Pack were, you would probably say Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., simply because those three individuals are who you see in the photos and videos. But there were two other men who were part of the group for a brief time who contributed to the name as well.

These men were Joey Bishop and Peter Lawford and, as I read through books and interviews on the two men, I probably discovered more than I had anticipated.

Joey Bishop was no stranger to Dean or Frank.

The first encounter he had with Dean was in 1942 at a nightclub in Philadelphia. Joey, who was home on his first leave from World War II, went to watch Dean’s act at the suggestion of his wife. Joey went to this show not knowing exactly what to expect, and he fell in love with Dean’s stage performance. He was amazed that one could take such a beautiful ballad and turn the words around only to get a rise out of the audience.

Born Joseph Abraham Gottlieb in 1918, Joey began his career as a standup comedian in the early 1950’s and appeared on many variety programs in those early days. He was nicknamed the “The Frown Prince of Comedy” due to his cynical disposition when on stage and it was this persona that would be closely associated with him his entire career. It was through these performances, that he caught the eye of

up and coming entertainer, Frank Sinatra.

Joey would find himself opening for Frank in his early shows because Frank preferred him to any other standup comic of the day. Joey had the gift of knowing how to keep the show moving without drawing attention to himself. It would be this stiff-shouldered stage presence that years later, that would land him in a group we know today as the Rat Pack.



As preparations were underway for *Ocean's 11*, Frank realized that with the anticipated magnitude the movie would have on the city of Las Vegas and The Sands Hotel, someone was needed with the personality to fit in with the elite crowd, yet would be able to move guys on and off the stage without bringing attention or embarrassment to himself while on camera. Joey would fill that spot, writing the material for the nightly shows.

Joey would join the cast of 1962's Western comedy *Sergeants 3*, where he played Sgt. Major Roger Boswell. Shortly after the movie, Joey came into conflict with Frank and his time with the group was over. He would still maintain a friendship with Dean and, in 1966, they would star together in another Western comedy *Texas Across the River* as Kronk, a Native American.

Joey appeared in several other movies in his career as well as a number of TV programs. His career spanned from 1948 to 1996. He died on October 17, 2007 at the age of 89.

In 2009, the Broadcasts Pioneers of Philadelphia posthumously inducted Joey into their Hall of Fame. In the Comedy Central's list of Best Comedians, he is at No. 96.

Peter Lawford, born in the UK in 1923 as Peter Ayles, began his acting career at the very young age of 8 years old where he had a part in the 1930 British comedy *Poor Old Bill*.

Having come from a military family, Peter's father did not approve of Peter's first stage performance. The family would move around, mainly France and India, and years would pass before Peter had another opportunity to pursue acting.

But the opportunity did not come without a price to pay. Due to an accident that did much damage to Peter's arm, it was suggested that the family move to a dry climate. One of the choices recommended to them just so happened to be Los Angeles, California. Peter's acting career began to take off where he was the leading man in movies such as *Son of Lassie*, *It Happened in Brooklyn*, *Easter Parade*, and *On an Island With You* just to name a few.

It was in the 1947 musical comedy *It Happened in Brooklyn* when Peter Lawford and Frank Sinatra would first share the screen. Though it was years before the two would meet again, Peter had made somewhat of an impression on Frank. Some of it was good, and some of it not so good. Peter continued his film career, as well as asking Patricia Kennedy to be his bride in

1954, which turned not only the heads of the Kennedy Family and the world, but that of Frank Sinatra.

It should be no surprise that Frank Sinatra was a world changer. His stance in life was to be involved with both hands and feet, not looking back. And with the marriage of Peter to Patricia, Frank saw opportunity to do just that in the support of John F. Kennedy's political career. Whatever doors needed to be opened, Frank made sure that it happened.

Over the course of time, Frank and Peter became close, spending time together on vacation and even becoming partners in Puccini, a Beverly Hills restaurant.

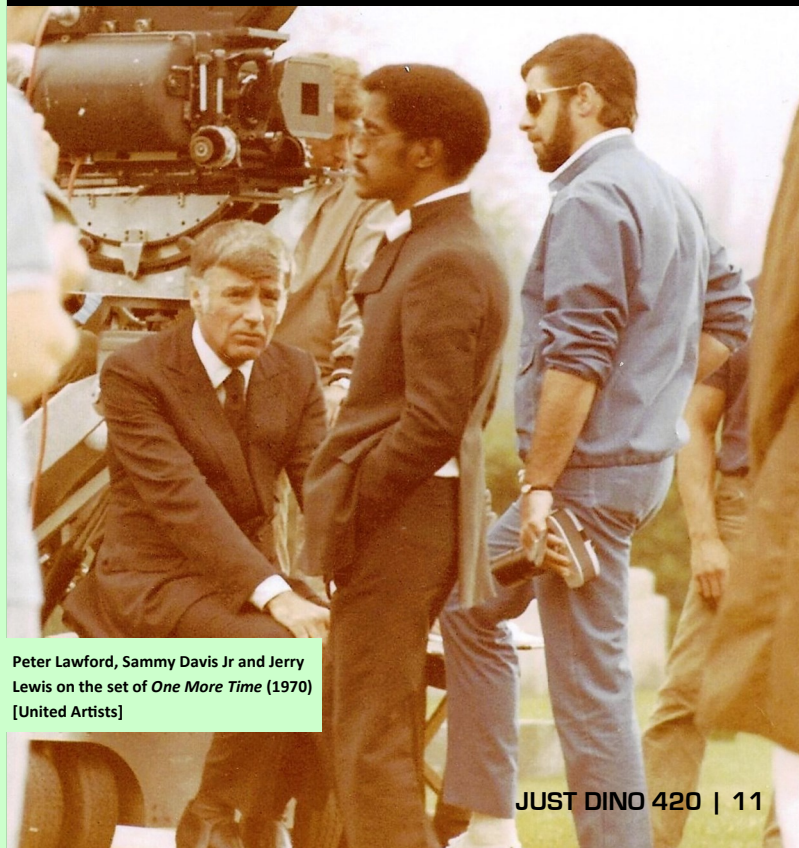
In 1958, a fellow film director told Peter about a movie plot that he had heard from a service station attendant. It told the unlikely tale of the Las Vegas casinos being held up by a group of World War II vets.

Peter bought the rights to the script, and had envisioned who would play the leading role. He discussed it with Frank who then purchased the script from Peter, finding he was one step closer to the Kennedy's when he invited Peter to become a member of The Rat Pack.

Peter would join his other Rat Pack members in two of their movies. The first would be the part of Jimmy Foster in *Ocean's 11* and then as Sargent Larry Barrett in *Sergeants 3*. Like Joey, but for a whole different set of reasons (none of which in either case we will go into here), he would also be removed from the group after an indifference with Frank.

Peter's extensive movie career concluded in 1983, including *One More Time*, a rarely-seen American 1970 United Artists comedy, co-starring Sammy Davis Jr and Christopher Lee, directed by Jerry Lewis from a script by Michael Pertwee. It was a sequel to *Salt and Pepper*, a 1968 British comedy again from United Artists, directed by Richard Donner, in which he shared top billing with Sammy, with UK comedy stalwart John Le Mesurier co-starring. Peter also appeared on various sitcoms beginning in 1953 to 1981.

He died on December 24, 1984 at the age of 61. **JD**



Peter Lawford, Sammy Davis Jr and Jerry Lewis on the set of *One More Time* (1970) [United Artists]

Meanderin'

News, events and dates for your diary.



THE DMA PODCAST [RELAUNCH]

The DMA Podcast debuted on 14 September 2021 and has welcomed guests from the entertainment world as well as features and chat from the DMA team.

From March 2024 The DMA Podcast will be rebranded and relaunched as *The Just Dino Hour*, complementing this very magazine. New episodes will drop on the last Friday of every month.

Content will include retrospectives, reviews, features and guests and from 1 March will have its own branded Facebook page and Instagram site. Please follow them for updates and so as not to miss an episode!

The Just Dino Hour is a DMA Original, and a Memory Hive and Shaken Not Stirred production, produced by Elliot Thorpe and Marisa Lavins, executive produced by Kent Edens.



NEW DEAN MARTIN RETROSPECTIVE

DMA president Elliot Thorpe was recently interviewed on camera by NewsMax Media for an upcoming retrospective they're producing about Dean. We'll keep you posted as to when and where the feature - and Elliot's interview - will be seen.

SWINGIN' SINATRA SUNDAY!

On 5 May 2024, in Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ, all things Sinatra are being celebrated. With guest speakers and live entertainment, you can be sure of a swingin' good time. [More details here.](#) For tickets, email sand3737@gmail.com.

JOE SCALISSI

Joe heads to Niagara Falls this coming April for the annual Elvis Presley convention. He will be singing as Dean Martin over two days. He will also be performing across the US too.

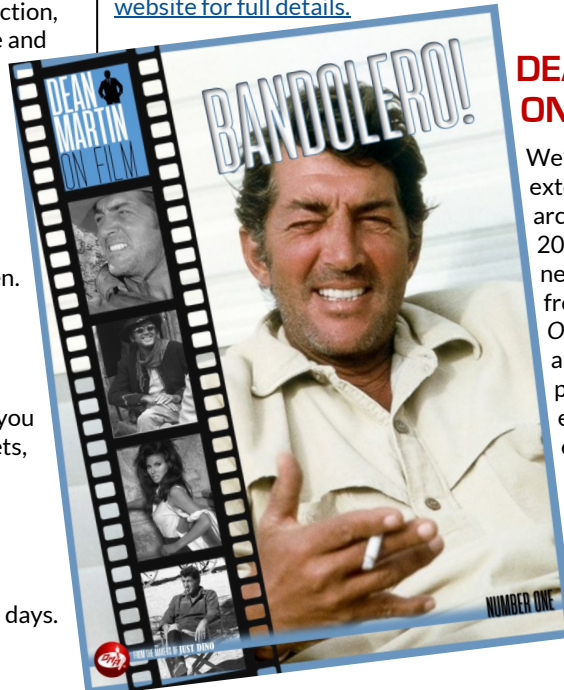
[Details of his appearances can be found here.](#)

WRITING OPPORTUNITY

We're giving the opportunity for genuine Dean Martin fans to add their voice to *Just Dino*. If you have something you'd like to say about Dean in a full article, or would like to write a retrospective about one of his films, series or albums, why not become a guest contributor? You even might want to share with us a song favorite for The Listening Booth! Have a look at our [submissions guide](#) and get writing!

THE RAT PACK SWINGIN' AT THE SANDS

Featuring stars from London's West End, this stylish, fully-choreographed show has something for everyone. After their standing-ovation success at the Adelphi Theatre last year, the trio hits the road on a national UK tour with seven dates scheduled so far. [Visit their website for full details.](#)



DEAN MARTIN ON FILM

We're opening up our extensive Dean Martin print archives and, beginning Fall 2024, there will be a regular new, free digital publication from the DMA, *Dean Martin On Film*. Featuring historic articles, press clippings, press packs and more in each edition, it will be the one place to get all you need to know about every single one of Dean's motion pictures, issue by issue - and is exclusive to our Facebook members and mailing list. Issue #1 will be *Bandolero!* Don't miss it! **JD**

NEXT ISSUE... To play and play again...

- ◆ Reprise Records: Sinatra's music empire
- ◆ FRENCH STYLE - retrospective
- ◆ Dean's Reprise years
- ◆ The Rat Pack Music Alliance



Issue 421 - 8 March 2024

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