

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRANK SINATRA SERIES HIGHLIGHTS PERFORMER'S ACCOMPLISHED FILM CAREER

August 12–September 4, 2011

Frank Sinatra was one of the most popular and influential entertainers of the 20th century. His phenomenal success and influence was not limited to his career as a recording artist; he was also an accomplished movie star with surprising range as an actor. From August 12 through September 4, 2011, Museum of the Moving Image will present the four-weekend series ***The Films of Frank Sinatra*** celebrating Sinatra's legacy as a performer on the big screen. The Museum will show a dozen of his finest films, ranging from musicals (*On the Town*, *Pal Joey*, *Guys and Dolls*) to dark melodramas (*Suddenly!*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *The Man with the Golden Arm*) to war and action movies (*From Here to Eternity*, *Von Ryan's Express*).

Among the series highlights is a rare theatrical screening of *Suddenly!*, a 1954 thriller that eerily foreshadowed the JFK assassination, with Sinatra as a cold-blooded assassin who plots to kill the President (August 13); Vincente Minnelli's powerful widescreen melodrama *Some Came Running* (August 27 and 28), starring Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Shirley MacLaine; and the Rat Pack movies *Ocean's Eleven* (September 3 and 4) and *Robin and the 7 Hoods* (September 2 and 3).

Frank Sinatra turned to working in film in the 1940s, just a few years after achieving success as a singer. His early musical comedies, costarring Gene Kelly—including the classic *On the Town* (1949), filmed largely on location in New York City—were box office smashes. But after relying on his singing talent in a number of MGM musicals, he lobbied for more substantial dramatic roles. This was realized in 1953 when Sinatra played Maggio opposite Montgomery Clift in *From Here to Eternity* and won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

His acting career continued with impressive turns in edgier films such as Otto Preminger's controversial *The Man with the Golden Arm* (1955), for which Sinatra was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor for his moving performance as a heroin addict, and as a brainwashed military officer in John Frankenheimer's complex political thriller *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962).

Sinatra's film work embraced a range of styles and genres from witty comedies to

gangster films to action movies. In *Pal Joey* (1957) he wooed and charmed Rita Hayworth and Kim Novak; he was praised for his lead performance in the World War II epic *Von Ryan's Express* (1965); and of *Ocean's Eleven* (1960), he famously joked "Forget the movie, let's pull the job!" From the 1940s to the 1980s, Sinatra made more than 60 films in diverse roles that revealed surprising depth and ambition as an actor.

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Images are available online at <http://movingimage.us/about/press> (For user/password, contact Tomoko).

SCHEDULE FOR 'THE FILMS OF FRANK SINATRA,' AUGUST 12–SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image (36-01 35 Avenue, Astoria, NY). Tickets for Saturday through Thursday are free with Museum admission unless otherwise noted. Tickets for Friday evening screenings are \$12 (\$9.00 for senior citizens and students). This schedule is also available online at <http://www.movingimage.us/films/2011/08/12/detail/the-films-of-frank-sinatra/>.

On the Town

Friday, August 12, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 14, 4:00 p.m.

Dirs. Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly. 1949, 98 mins. Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly co-directed this gloriously free-form adaptation of Betty Comden and Adolph Green's 1944 Broadway show, with music by Leonard Bernstein. Sinatra, Kelly, and Jules Munshin are a trio of sailors who spend their shore leave cavorting around New York City. This energetic musical includes location photography and opens with the show-stopping number "New York, New York."

From Here to Eternity

Saturday, August 13, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 14, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Fred Zinnemann. 1953, 118 mins. With Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Donna Reed. This powerful adaptation of James Jones's novel about the lives of a group of soldiers stationed in Hawaii in the months before Pearl Harbor swept the 1954 Academy Awards, winning for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Writing, and Best Supporting Actress. Sinatra won Best Supporting Actor for his pivotal role as the hotheaded Private Angelo Maggio.

Suddenly!

Saturday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Lewis Allen. 1954, 75 mins. In a dark and efficient thriller that eerily foreshadowed the JFK assassination, Frank Sinatra plays a cold blooded psychopath who is part of a team of assassins who move to a small California town to kill the President when he passes through on a fishing trip. Sinatra earned strong reviews for his convincing performance; *Newsweek* praised him as "one of the most repellent killers in American screen history."

Pal Joey

Friday, August 9, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 20, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. George Sidney. 1957, 109 mins. With Rita Hayworth, Kim Novak. This considerably light-hearted version of a hard-edged 1940 Broadway musical based on John O'Hara's short stories finds Sinatra as a bitter nightclub singer in a love triangle with a wealthy widow and a young chorus girl. The Rodgers and Hart score includes "Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered" and "The Lady Is a Tramp."

The Man with the Golden Arm

Saturday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 21, 7:00 p.m.

35mm print restored by the Academy Film Archives with funding from the Film Foundation and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Dir. Otto Preminger. 1955, 119 mins. With Kim Novak. A singularly audacious film about drug addiction, this riveting drama stars Sinatra as a junkie card dealer adrift in a world of menacing archetypes and boldly stylized sets. To the pulse of Elmer Bernstein's jazz score, Preminger's direction is perfectly pitched between expressionism and realism.

High Society

Sunday, August 21, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Charles Walters. 1956, 111 mins. With Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Louis Armstrong. A musical version of George Cukor's *The Philadelphia Story*, this delightful jazz-filled remake stars Sinatra in what was originally Jimmy Stewart's role as the tabloid reporter who throws a hitch into the marriage plans of a spoiled socialite (Grace Kelly) whose ex-husband (Bing Crosby) is out to win her back.

The Manchurian Candidate

Friday, August 26, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 27, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. John Frankenheimer. 1962, 126 mins. With Laurence Harvey, Janet Leigh. Sinatra is an Army Captain suffering from recurring nightmares in which a brainwashed soldier kills fellow Americans. The nightmares prove to be reality, part of a homegrown plot to bring totalitarianism to U.S. soil. This manic drama of paranoia and power is surely one of the strangest and strongest movies to ever come out of Hollywood.

Some Came Running

Saturday, August 27, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 28, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Vincente Minnelli. 1959, 136 mins. With Shirley MacLaine, Dean Martin. Few films have ever taken advantage of the dramatic and expressive possibilities of wide screen quite like Vincente Minnelli's melodrama about a veteran (Sinatra) who lands back in his nowhere hometown and must come to terms with the failings of his life while juggling loaded situations involving a gambler (Dean Martin) and a lush (Shirley MacLaine) with a murderous boyfriend.

Guys and Dolls

Sunday, August 28, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Joseph L. Mankiewicz. 1955, 150 mins. With Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons. This strange brew of stylized pastels, CinemaScope photography, and Method acting features Sinatra and Brando as hardluck hoods. Despite the fact that the non-singing Brando was given the lead musical role, and Sinatra was oddly cast as Nathan Detroit, who was gruff and clearly Jewish in the stage version, the film retains the charm of the Damon Runyan stories it was based on.

Robin and the 7 Hoods

Friday, September 2, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 3, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Gordon Douglas. 1964, 123 mins. Gangland Chicago ("My Kind of Town") becomes Sherwood Forest and the Rat Pack are the Merry Men in this winning musical reimagining of Robin Hood, a must see if just for Sammy Davis, Jr.'s tap-dancing through a gang war to "Bang, Bang." Sinatra earns his title as the Prince of Thieves when his gangster's honor leads him to donate the payment for a hit he didn't commit to an orphanage.

Ocean's Eleven

Saturday, September 3, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 4, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Lewis Milestone. 1960, 127 mins. Steven Soderbergh's sexy and lavish remake was a lot of fun, but the original shows that the effortless charm and cool of the Rat Pack is impossible to duplicate. Sinatra and Peter Lawford lead a crew of World War II vets—including Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr.—in a wildly ambitious plan to rob five different Las Vegas casinos in a single night.

Von Ryan's Express

Sunday, September 4, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Mark Robson. 1965, 117 mins. Featuring extensive location shooting and a fully fabricated prison camp, this exciting World War II epic centers on Joseph L. Ryan (Frank Sinatra), an American Colonel who heads the American and British prisoners in an Italian prison camp. Ryan leads the soldiers in a daring plot to take control of a Nazi freight train that is transporting prisoners.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Closed on Monday except for holiday openings).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-18. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free.

Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.

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