

Film @ The Wallis

**The Wallis Celebrates the Frank Sinatra Centennial  
With Film Screenings and Panel Discussion featuring  
Nancy Sinatra, Tina Sinatra, AJ Lambert and Charles Pignone  
Fri, Nov 13 & Sat, Nov 14**

**(Beverly Hills, CA – Nov 4, 2015)** Frank Sinatra's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday will be commemorated worldwide with concerts, exhibitions, recordings, books and numerous other festivities. To celebrate Sinatra's Hollywood connection, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts will screen three of Sinatra's finest films—*On the Town*, *From Here to Eternity* and *Ocean's 11*. In addition, The Wallis will host a panel discussion featuring daughters Nancy and Tina Sinatra and granddaughter AJ Lambert plus *Sinatra 100* author Charles Pignone who will focus on Frank Sinatra as an actor and his relationship to Hollywood and the film business. Terry Teachout will moderate. *From Here to Eternity* will be screened Fri, Nov 13 at 7pm; *On the Town*, Sat, Nov 14 at 3pm; *Ocean's 11*, Sat, Nov 14 at 7pm. The panel discussion will take place at The Wallis in the Bram Goldsmith Theater, Sat, Nov 14 at 4:00pm.

**About Frank Sinatra in Hollywood**

While his smooth baritone voice rocketed him into fame, Frank Sinatra's wide range as an actor in over 60 films was equally extraordinary, earning him the nickname, "One Take Charlie," for his spontaneous, instinctive acting style. These films, deeply cherished by the public, also tell the story of not just his Hollywood career, but of his overall impact as an American icon.

Sinatra made three films with Gene Kelly – *Anchors Aweigh* (1945), *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (1949) and *On the Town* (1949) that became classic MGM musicals. *On the Town* co-directed by Kelly and Stanley Donen became Donen's first directorial credit, was the first time a major studio filmed its musical numbers on location (in New York) and was ranked as one of the top twenty musicals by the American Film Institute.

Charles Pignone wrote in his book *Sinatra 100*, "Never one to give up on himself, Sinatra had his sights set on a new project, a role in a movie that he was born to play. *The day I heard that a movie was to be made from the bestseller From Here To Eternity I knew, suddenly, that I had something to fight for. I went to [producer] Buddy Adler and I said, 'Buddy, I've never asked you for anything before, but I'm ready to beg for that part. Give it to me and you'll never be sorry.'* I had read the book and I knew one hundred Maggios in my lifetime. I made a test for Harry Cohn [President of Columbia Pictures]; it was of the drunk scene in the bar. After that I went to Africa to see Ava [Gardner]. I heard that Eli Wallach was testing for it [Maggio] and I thought I'd never get the part. I had to come back to make the picture. I would have done it for nothing."

In April 1953 Sinatra signed a contract with Capitol Records and by the end of that month had his first recording session with Nelson Riddle. That session included "I've Got the World on the String" a sentiment that would be true after the August 1953 release of *From Here to Eternity*, starring Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Sinatra, and Donna Reed, and directed by Fred Zinnemann.

On March 25, 1954 the film won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture, Director, and Screenplay. Sinatra won the Oscar for his portrayal of Private Angelo Maggio. That evening, one of the greatest in Sinatra's professional life, also marked one of the most dramatic and greatest comebacks in the history of show business. On the radio were *From Here to Eternity*, *South of the Border*, and *Young at Heart* were huge hits and in homes the classic albums *Songs for Young Lovers* and *Swing Easy!* Were on every turntable.

Sinatra was back on top with acclaim for film roles in *Young at Heart*, *The Tender Trap*, *The Man With the Golden Arm*, *Guys and Dolls*, *High Society*, *Pal Joey*, and *A Hole in the Head*. In 1960 – with the albums *Come Dance With Me* and *Nice 'n' Easy* at the top of the charts.

*Ocean's 11* was released in 1960. Directed by Lewis Milestone, It stars Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford, and Angie Dickinson. This classic, original caper film is the basis of the 2001 remake starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts, directed by Stephen Soderbergh.

That same year, Sinatra began his own record label – Reprise, where his hits included "It Was A Very Good Year," "Something' Stupid" (with Nancy Sinatra), "Summer Wind," "That's Life," "Strangers in the Night," "My Way," and "Theme from New York, New York." For nearly the next two decades Frank Sinatra was a major box office superstar, and for the next four decades a major recording star and concert artist. Sinatra had completely regained his popularity and then some. The Voice was now The Chairman Of The Board.

#### **About the Sinatra in Hollywood Panel Discussion:**

The Wallis will also host a panel discussion on November 14 at 4:00pm about Sinatra, these films, and his life and times with AJ Lambert, granddaughter of Sinatra and a film and television music consultant; Tina Sinatra, daughter of Sinatra and actress, writer and producer; Nancy Sinatra, daughter of Sinatra and an iconic American singer; and Charles Pignone, author of the new book *Sinatra 100*, and Senior Vice President of Frank Sinatra Enterprises. Pignone has been associated with the Sinatra Family for three decades. The panel is moderated by Terry Teachout, drama critic of The Wall Street Journal, author of biographies and Louis Armstrong, George Balanchine, Duke Ellington, and H.L. Mencken, and the critically acclaimed play *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, which has been produced at The Wallis, Off-Broadway and other cities coast-to-coast.

#### **Tickets Now on Sale:**

Tickets (\$15.00 per film; panel is free to all ticketholders) are available at [www.thewallis.org](http://www.thewallis.org), by calling 310-746-4000, or in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

#### **About The Wallis**

The mission of The Wallis is to be a vital cultural hub that uses unique arts events and education programming to entertain, enlighten and inspire children and adults in our community and across the nation. Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented over 100 dance, theatre, opera, classical music and children's programs to an ever expanding audience. The 2014-15 season saw audiences at The Wallis grow to over 44,000 attendees with another 50,000 anticipated for the 2015-16 Season which officially began in September with a sold-out and live-streamed conversation with two-time Academy Award winning actor Denzel Washington followed by four sold-out performances of the Twyla Tharp 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour.

Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. With eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles, and its notability as the entertainment

capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe.

Nominated for 26 Ovation Awards, four L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of five architectural awards since opening in 2013, The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. For more information, visit [www.thewallis.org](http://www.thewallis.org).

###

#### **Calendar Listing for *Frank Sinatra Centennial***

**Where:** Bram Goldsmith Theater  
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**Dates:** Friday, November 13  
7:00 pm *From Here to Eternity* (1953)

Saturday, November 14  
2:00 pm *On the Town* (1949)  
4:00 pm Panel Discussion with AJ Lambert, Tina Sinatra, Nancy Sinatra and Charles Pignone;  
moderated by Terry Teachout  
7:00 pm *Ocean's 11* (1960)

**Tickets:** **Prices:** \$15.00 for each film; Panel Discussion is free to all ticketholders.

**How to get:** **In Person** – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services  
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
**By Phone** – 310-746-4000  
**Online** – [www.thewallis.org](http://www.thewallis.org)

**Press Contacts:** Tim Choy, Davidson & Choy Publicity  
323-954-7510 | [t.choy@dcpublicity.com](mailto:t.choy@dcpublicity.com)  
Gary W. Murphy, The Wallis Public Relations Consultant  
310-914-0178 | [gmurphypr@gmail.com](mailto:gmurphypr@gmail.com)