

Rat Pack Confidential: Frank, Dean, Sammy, Peter, Joey and the Last Great Show Biz Party By Shawn Levy This semi bio of all the characters is an interesting read and descriptions of their wild antics and relationships with each other their show business friends politicians and the mob. **Rat pack confidential book** 368 The beauty of this book is that despite all the tales of excess and glitz and bad behaviour you are never really left feeling like the Rat Pack are just a pack of assholes. **Rat pack confidential book** who in his own words worked harder than anyone yet was under-rated as a performer in spite of his talent managed to desegregate the casinos in Vegas and was unfairly ostracized for marrying a white woman. **Rat pack confidential book** Booze' from ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS)Sammy with his wicked early 1960s suits Dean-NO with his innate sense of wicked humor Lawford with his wicked bizarreness Bishop with his wicked sarcasm and Frankie with his wicked vocal chops. **Rat pack confidential book** It's not a hatchet-job of Frank Sinatra disguised as unauthorized biography like Kitty Kelley wrote but the "Confidential" in the title clues you in that it's going to be dark ride Clyde. **Rat pack confidential book** Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop would hang out on the stage of the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas and sing and cut-up and booze it up for the entertainment of guys who would give their right nut to be them and the "broads" who wanted to be with them. **Rat pack confidential book** I mean why bother with Frank when you could have Elvis and later the Beatles and the Stones? I've changed my mind since then though I still think Frank was a prick but an ever-fascinating one and a musical genius. **Rat pack confidential book** I always liked him (TV shows Dear Phoebe and The Thin Man) a totally screwed up guy with a crazy mother seriously sexually abused as a child and a Kennedy adjunct kicked to the curb when he self-destructed his marriage to Pat Kennedy and kicked further by Sinatra when he lost his Kennedy usefulness. **Rat pack confidential book** Around them an entire cast gathers: actors comics singers songwriters gangsters politicians and women as well as thousands of starstruck everyday folks who fork over pocketfuls of money for the privilege of basking in their presence. **Rat pack confidential book** The former film critic of The Oregonian and KGW TV and a former editor of American Film he has been published in Sight and Sound Film Comment The New York Times The Los Angeles Times The Guardian The Hollywood Reporter and The Black Rock Beacon among many other outlets, **Rat pack confidential book** LIFE magazine has recently (2019) come out with a 112 glossy reprint of a 2013 issue called The Rat Pack, **Rat pack confidential book** Rather that they are taking full advantage of their status and their popularity and forming a kind of club that sets the bar sky high for style and talent: **Rat pack confidential book** Compared to the current chart dross it made me nostalgic for a time I never knew: **Rat pack confidential book** Gave me a taste of life around the times of this glorious group: **Rat pack confidential book** 368 Breezy breathtaking romp through the lives loves and tragedies of Frank Dean Sammy Peter and Joey -- known as The Rat Pack, **Rat pack confidential book** Frank and crew ruled the world of showbiz for a couple of years then were cast aside by the rise of the counter-culture in the 60s and 70s, **Rat pack confidential book** But Frank is still the king of male singers and his albums still fly off the shelf, **Rat pack confidential book** And surprisingly Dean's and Sammy's best still hold up today, **Rat pack confidential book** Levy's foray into the Rat Pack world of broads sex booze and crime is a real page turner tying together the connections between Frank and the mob and the Kennedys. **Rat pack confidential book** Disclosure: Shawn and I go back about 30 years when we worked on the same Hollywood publication. **Rat pack confidential book** 368



I was born in 1967 and my parents were of the hippie persuasion: **Rat pack confidential book** We listened to Bob Dylan and Peter Paul and Mary not Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin: **Rat pack confidential book** A few years ago I started listening to Sinatra and was blown away by the power of his voice, **Rat pack confidential book** I knew nothing about his life or the rest of the Rat Pack, **Rat pack confidential book** I'd never even heard of Joey Bishop or much more than Peter Lawford's name. **Rat pack confidential book** I once stayed at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas but really had no idea of its history: **Rat pack confidential book** This book is a detailed engaging look at the lives of Frank Sinatra and the group of friends who made the film Ocean's Eleven with him, **Rat pack confidential book** The whole cast have passed into history but for a short time they were just about the hottest stars of the entertainment world and their collective talents were truly amazing: **Rat pack confidential book** The more I read the more I kept heading over to YouTube to watch videos of their classic moments. **Rat pack confidential book** In particular I've developed a soft spot for Sammy Davis Jr. **Rat pack confidential book** If you're just discovering these hip cats and their world this book will definitely get you even more interested, **Rat pack confidential book** It's vivid blue and composed of I don't know what but it made me think of this book and how these dudes made everyday vices so electrifyingly cool, **Rat pack confidential book** This book has an unfortunate tendency to focus on Ol' Blue Eyes which isn't bad as he's The Leader but it would have been nice to get much more on his cohorts, **Rat pack confidential book** It's a great intro to folks discovering their style and a Vegas some of us never knew, **Rat pack confidential book** And then I started drinking what I manufactured and I drank myself out of a hell of a business, **Rat pack confidential book** Dean: You'd think they'd put a little heat in this room I'm freezing, **Rat pack confidential book** Book Season = Summer (fly me to the moon) 368 Cool touch of nostalgia for those of us of a certain age: **Rat pack confidential book** A good deal of the information about each of the "Rat Pack" members is already widely known due to the many biographies and autobiographies already written: **Rat pack confidential book** Their ups and downs were many and staggering not always flattering sometimes offensive: **Rat pack confidential book** Their triumphs and failures also many and stunning sometimes shocking: **Rat pack confidential book** BUT they are remembered centuries later as giants of the industry: **Rat pack confidential book** I loved reliving the golden days when these icons all of them gave us everything they had and more. **Rat pack confidential book** Love them or hate them there is no denying as I write this in 2020... "And there was never anything like it before or since: **Rat pack confidential book** 8) 368 If you believe The Rat Pack was the pinnacle of sophisticated grown-up entertainment in the 20th century as the author claims this is the book for you. **Rat pack confidential book** Booze + chicks + music + crappy movies + The Kennedys + mobsters = Come Fly With Me Daddy-o! I'm under 30 40 50 just started getting AARP literature in the mail Jeff: **Rat pack confidential book** During the shooting of the original movie Ocean's Eleven Frank Sinatra Dean Martin Sammy Davis Jr: **Rat pack confidential book** Sinatra was the puppet master at the height of his popularity a gifted singer a decent actor when he cared enough and a bully. **Rat pack confidential book** If you didn't do it Frank's way you could hit the road pally, **Rat pack confidential book** Dean Martin was the epitome of cool (or sheer indifference) and refined the drunkard-as-an-on-stage-persona routine, **Rat pack confidential book** Davis had to deal with years and years of some of the most virulent racism you

can imagine, **Rat pack confidential book** He would perform at a hotel/casino yet couldn't stay there or mill around in the lobby because of Las Vegas's Jim Crow laws: **Rat pack confidential book** Once he displeased Sinatra and had to literally beg on his hands and knees in order to be let back into the Pack, **Rat pack confidential book** Peter Lawford British was an iffy actor\entertainer at best but because he married Pat Kennedy JFK's sister he was Sinatra's ticket (or so he thought) to the White House, **Rat pack confidential book** He ended up on Hollywood Squares to the left of Paul Lynde, **Rat pack confidential book** There aren't a lot of original stories here and most of them have been oft repeated elsewhere (fist fights Marilyn Monroe JFK Sam Giancana Frank Jr: **Rat pack confidential book** The Rat Pack wasn't the apex of show biz but as portrayed here it seemed like fun, **Rat pack confidential book** If you're interested in the subject matter it's a not uninteresting gateway: **Rat pack confidential book** Or you could just pick up a Sinatra or Dean Martin CD - the music - the real legacy, **Rat pack confidential book** I grew up in the era of The Ratpack (and no Frank et al didn't like that name) I loathed them though I thought Dean Martin was OK: **Rat pack confidential book** Crass materialism commercialism and the worse offense being old-fashioned, **Rat pack confidential book** Maybe after I rediscovered lounge music 15 years ago or so, **Rat pack confidential book** (I'd grown up with spending a lot of time in bars and resorts and was once forced to take cha-cha lessons: **Rat pack confidential book**)Ratpack Confidential is not a biography; though it contains the biographies of Frank Dean Sammy Peter and Joey entourage. **Rat pack confidential book** As author Shawn Levy says it's an analysis of a place in time, **Rat pack confidential book** And a short time it was; something that always amazes me as an historian looking back on movements or eras which had significant cultural impact, **Rat pack confidential book** Funny how most of them last for only 4-5 years and we still live the fruits today. **Rat pack confidential book** The Ratpack was just a bunch of guys a sort of in crowd getting together for a good time. **Rat pack confidential book** They had money and style and could pull it off and at the end of the book I'm not sure if any of them actually realized the impact they had. **Rat pack confidential book** An insecure guy afraid of his mother who ended up believing his own publicity with the juice to back up his own myth. **Rat pack confidential book** (I remember Jimmy Fratiano making fun of him in his first memoir as a wannabe, **Rat pack confidential book** victimized earlier by terrible racism in and out of entertainment; a people pleaser who Frank encouraged promoted yet ridiculed with no regret: **Rat pack confidential book** Joey Bishop who I remembered as a much bigger name than he really was sorta kept things in order a great talent who stood up to Frank. **Rat pack confidential book** I plan on reading James Spada's bio of Lawford later this year: **Rat pack confidential book** My only criticism of the book is that I'd have liked more analysis on Frank's relationship with Mia Farrow (what were both of them thinking?), **Rat pack confidential book** Back in the 1980's I had a chance to see Frank perform and I turned it down: **Rat pack confidential book** Celebrity Las Vegas Hollywood sex the mob the Kennedys Marilyn Monroe money. **Rat pack confidential book** Ratpack Confidential is good entry into the culture history of mid-century America, **Rat pack confidential book** Like after I recently finished Babbitt I feel nostalgic for the Ratpack days, **Rat pack confidential book** The Ratpack was in it's way manufactured but nothing like mass manufactured contemporary Amerika, **Rat pack confidential book** 368 For the first time the full story of what happened when Frank brought his best pals to party in a land called Vegas January 1960. **Rat pack confidential book** The Strip is a jet-age theme park and the greatest singer in the history of American popular music summons a group of friends there to make a movie, **Rat pack confidential book** One is an insouciant singer of Italian songs ex-partner to the most popular film comedian of the day, **Rat pack confidential book** One is an upper-crust British pretty boy turned degenerate B-movie star actor brother-in-law to an ascendant politician, **Rat pack confidential book** And one is a stiff-shouldered comic with the quintessential Borscht Belt emcee's knack for needling one-liners: **Rat pack confidential book** The architectonically sleek marquee of the Sands Hotel announces their presence simply by listing their names: FRANK SINATRA: **Rat pack confidential book** A fabulose playground of a city and all the money in the world: **Rat pack confidential book** The backing of fearsome crime lords and the

blessing of the President of the United States: **Rat pack confidential book** But the dark side—over the thin line between pleasure and debauchery between swinging self-confidence and brutal arrogance—took its toll: **Rat pack confidential book** In four years their great ride was over and showbiz was never the same. **Rat pack confidential book** Acclaimed Jerry Lewis biographer Shawn Levy has written a dazzling portrait of a time when neon brightness cast sordid shadows. **Rat pack confidential book** Rat Pack Confidential: Frank Dean Sammy Peter Joey and the Last Great Show Biz Party Shawn Levy is the author of eleven books of biography pop culture history and poetry, **Rat pack confidential book** He jumps and claps and sings for victory in Portland Oregon where he serves on the board of directors of Operation Pitch Invasion[1]

I have always been fascinated by the Rat Pack. It has loads of photos and similar information. Real singers singing real songs. 368 Good story. Terrible writing. 368 This was rather well written. Highly enjoyable. Still feel rather sorry for Peter Lawford though poor chap. If you're already a fan you'll enjoy the details and trivia. 368 The Sinatra Martini. Swingers. I used spirits for medicinal purposes only. I manufactured it for medicinal purposes only. for medicinal purposes only. ('Mr. ice cubes swimming along before assassinations changed the world. Frank: Take your hand out of the ice bucket. Dean: Oh. This book brings them together as the "Rat Pack". How it started how it progressed and how it ended. Their collective excess of talent is flabbergasting. No one else can touch them.' (Pg. Just who is this Rat Pack? Well Ring-a-Ding-Ding kids. Everyone else was a "Harvey". A square. Sammy Davis's story is heartbreaking. He guest starred on the Love Boat. Joey Bishop was a comedian. He wrote some of the Rat Pack stage material. gets kidnapped etc.). For your grandparents. 368 I love this book. They stood for everything I hated. I'm not sure when I changed. I ran from all this stuff. Frank Sinatra as I said was a prick but much more. Honestly I'm surprised somebody didn't pop him.) Dean just wanted to be left alone--separated from it all. Sammy Davis Jr. Sammy caught in two worlds no matter what he did. And finally Peter Lawford a truly tragic figure. Barbara Marx is mentioned only in passing. I really regret it. American has next to nothing now. Las Vegas is at its smooth cool peak. One is a short black Jewish one-eyed singing dancing wonder. DEAN MARTIN. SAMMY DAVIS JR. PETER LAWFORD. JOEY BISHOP. They call themselves The Clan. But to an awed world they are known as The Rat Pack. They had it all. Fame. Gorgeous women. It was Frank's World and we just lived in it..