

Matt Lauer Engaged • Oprah, Rosie Grab Daytime Emmys

# People

weekly



FATHER



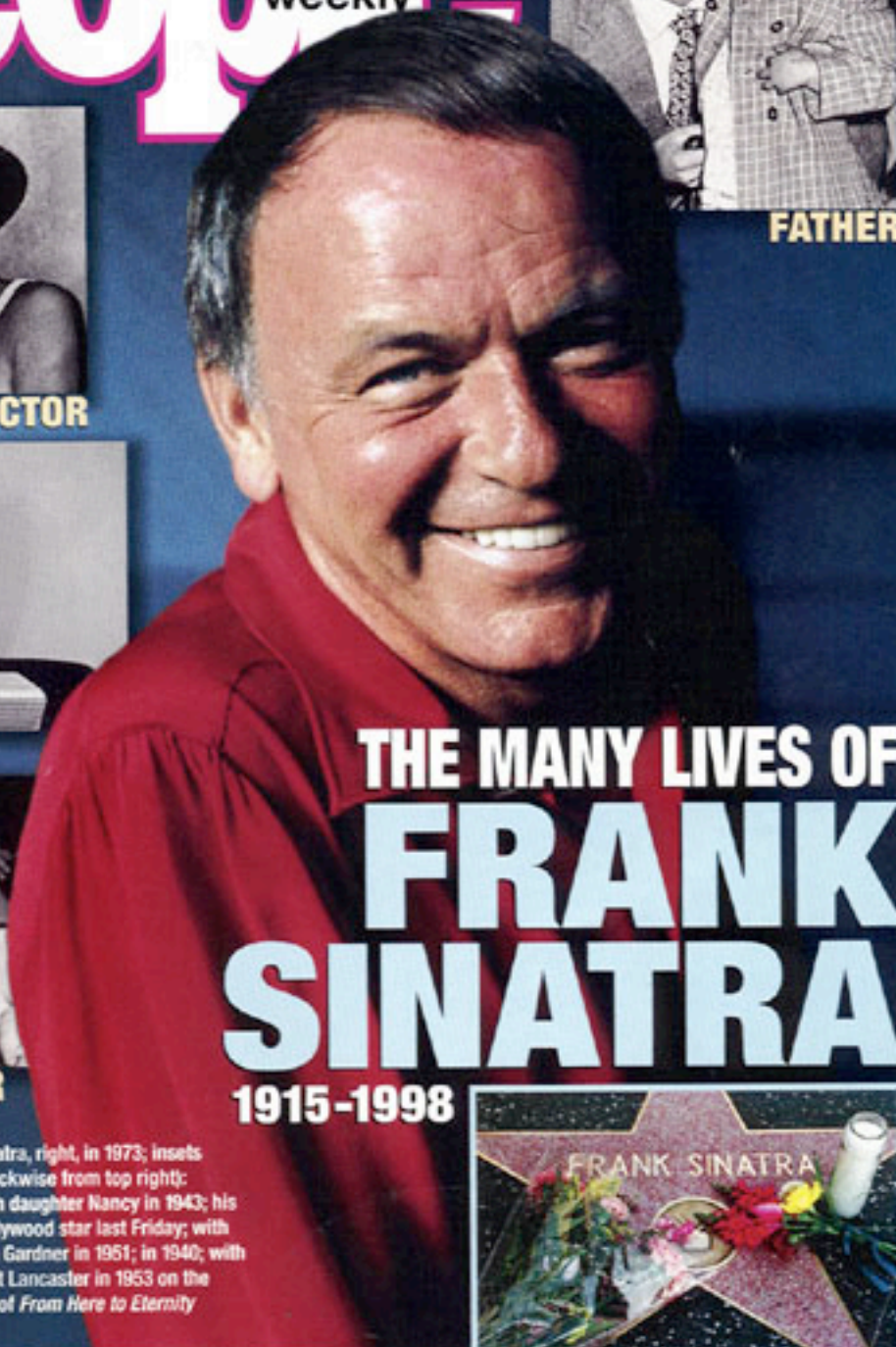
ACTOR



SINGER



SWINGER



## THE MANY LIVES OF FRANK SINATRA

1915-1998



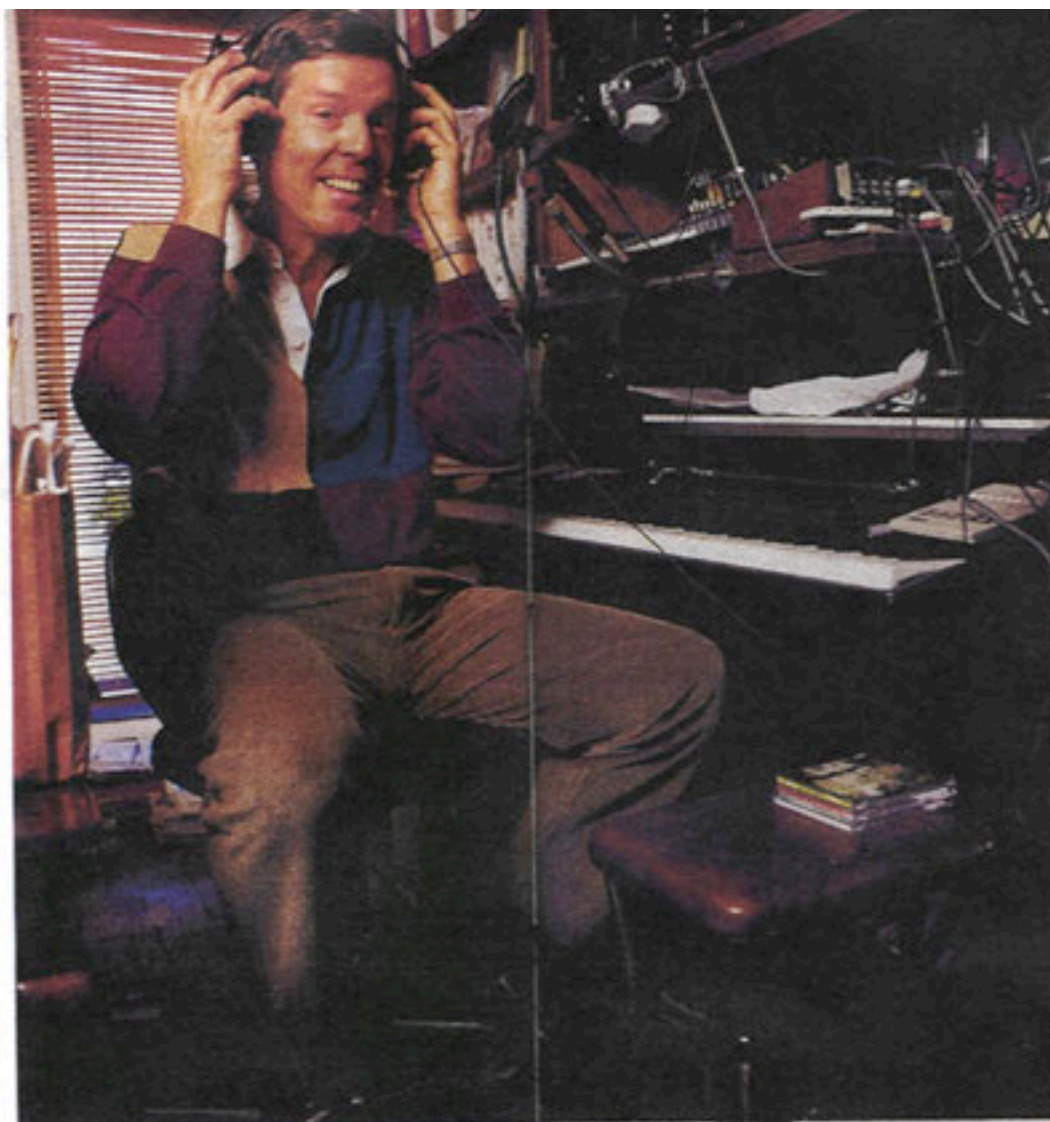
Sinatra, right, in 1973; insets (clockwise from top right): with daughter Nancy in 1943; his Hollywood star last Friday; with Ava Gardner in 1951; in 1940; with Burt Lancaster in 1953 on the set of *From Here to Eternity*

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## Banker with a Big Band Beat

For years Bob Hardwick, vice president of New York City's U.S. Trust, moonlighted as a pianist, rushing to gigs after work and returning red-eyed and weary the next day. Then in 1989, while playing a Kentucky Derby party in Louisville, Hardwick met film star Gregory Peck. "A career in the arts," Peck told him, "is always preferable."

And sometimes profitable. Playing a mix of Gershwin standards and Motown groove, Hardwick's Manhattan-based band, the Bob Hardwick Sound, has entertained princes (Charles and Philip) and presidents (Carter, Reagan and Bush). Last year his band accompanied Aretha Franklin at the wedding of Vice President Gore's daughter, Karenna. Since he quit banking in 1990 to play full-



"When a sign comes, you have to go with it," says former banker Hardwick (in his Manhattan home studio and, left, in his 1978 corporate guise).

time, Hardwick, 55, couldn't be happier. "I'm making about four times what I made as a banker," he says, "and I'm doing what I love."

A pianist since age 4, Hardwick, son of a banker, was always torn between music and business. He chose the latter, but after he played at a high-society party for a friend in 1977, his after-hours job took off. In 1990, with the support of wife Beth, now 53, a marketing consultant, he took a sabbatical to play with the Louisville Orchestra and never returned. Beth is ecstatic. "I have the best of both worlds," she says.