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Frank Sinatra exhibit opens at Morrison Hotel Gallery

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From the opening reception of "The Sinatra Experience" at the Morrison Hotel Gallery in Soho, on March 5, 2015. Amanda Erlinger, Sinatra's granddaughter, curated the exhibit and was in attendance with her mother, Nancy Sinatra. *Leslie Feffer*

As part of a yearlong celebration of what would've been [Frank Sinatra's](#) 100th birthday, "[The Sinatra Experience](#)" photo exhibit opened yesterday at [Morrison Hotel Gallery Soho](#) (116 Prince Street).

The exhibition is curated by the legendary singer and actor's granddaughter, Amanda Erlinger. The more than 40 images of him on display were lovingly chosen from her grandmother's personal collection, the Capitol Records Archive, and the extensive work of renowned photographer Terry O'Neill.

"A while back, I started looking through my family's archive and found some real gems, and I'd been

holding onto them a long time,” Erlinger said. “We have some pretty special stuff we wanted to share with the public.”

She was close with her grandfather and treasures the photos for the look they give her into his life. “Even though I didn’t know him at the time periods in his life [featured in the exhibit], you could see where he came from,” she said. **Her favorite image** is one that her grandmother snapped — “He’s just sitting in the chair. I love the look on his face, I love the shadow in the background.”

Her mother, Nancy Sinatra, enjoyed the opening reception for the exhibition, pausing to look at each photograph hanging on the walls. “To see them all beautifully framed and hanging here, it’s absolutely wonderful,” she said. “I’m so proud of Amanda, she’s done incredible work.”

Morrison Hotel Gallery co-founder Peter Blachley jumped at the opportunity to host the show. “[Brand management company] **1966 Americas** came to us and said ‘Would you like to do a Frank Sinatra show?’ And I didn’t think a second about it,” he said. He pointed out that none of the images had ever been shown publicly before, except for a large photo O’Neill **shot of Sinatra walking with his entourage along the boardwalk at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach in 1967.**

The exhibit runs through March 26, and prints can be purchased at the gallery. They range in price from \$750 for a **selfie** that Ol’ Blue Eyes snapped in a bathroom mirror while making the OK sign with his left hand in 1938 to \$15,000 for the O’Neill photo taken on the Fontainebleau boardwalk.

For fans who want to see more of the Frank Sinatra Centennial celebration, the New York Public Library is hosting a multimedia exhibit — **“Sinatra: An American Icon”** — now through September 4, 2015.

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Leslie Feffer

New York Classic Rock Music Examiner