

## The Dean Martin Show Notes

Aired on NBC beginning September 16, 1965 to April 5, 1974. There were 264 programs in this series.

This was Dean Martin's second time as a variety show host. Before, he hosted two variety shows that aired on the NBC anthology series *Ford Startime* from 1959 until 1960.

*The Dean Martin Show* was recorded on videotape beginning in 1965 at Studio 4 inside NBC's color complex at 3000 West Alameda Avenue in Burbank, California. The same studio was used for Frank Sinatra's annual television specials in the late 1960's as well as *Elvis Presley's 1968 "Comeback Special"*. Today, Studio 4 is one of two used in the production of the soap opera *Days Of Our Lives*.

Martin really did not want to do the show, mainly because he did not want to turn down movie and nightclub offers. His terms were unreasonable on purpose. He presented NBC with a list of demands to which he thought NBC would never agree. He asked for an outrageous amount of money. Plus, he only wanted to work one day a week and that day had to be Sunday. He didn't want to do anything but announce the acts. He didn't even want to sing if he didn't feel like it. Believe it or not, NBC agreed to all of his terms.

When the show was canceled in 1974, a series of *Dean Martin Celebrity Roast* specials were produced in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand Hotel. This program began during the final season of his variety show and continued until 1984.

Everybody Loves Somebody - Music by Ken Lane and words by Irving Taylor was written in 1947. By 1964, the song had already been recorded by several artists including Peggy Lee in 1947, Frank Sinatra in 1948 and Dinah Washington in 1959, but without much success.

Ken (Kermit) Lane was playing piano for Dean Martin on his *Dream With Dean* LP sessions. With an hour or so of studio time left and being one song short, Lane suggested that Martin take a run at his tune. Martin was agreeable and the small combo performed a very laid-back version of the song. Martin had sung it almost 20 years earlier on Bob Hope's radio show in 1948 and also on Martin and Lewis's NBC radio program at about the same time. In 1964, Martin re-recorded the song for his next album, this time with a full orchestra and chorus. His label, Reprise Records, was so enthusiastic about the hit potential of this version they titled the LP *Everybody Loves Somebody* to capitalize on it. On August 15, 1964, *Everybody Loves Somebody* knocked The Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night" off the No. 1 spot on Billboard, going straight to the top of the Billboard Hot 100. The song was also on the top of the Pop-Standard Singles chart for eight weeks.

**Dean Martin** - was born Dino Paul Crocetti in Steubenville, Ohio. As a teenager, he played the drums as a hobby. He dropped out of high school in the tenth grade because he thought he was smarter than his teachers. For work, he bootlegged liquor, worked in a steel mill, was a croupier at a speakeasy and a blackjack dealer and also a welterweight boxer.

Martin sang with local bands under the name of Dino Martini. He got his break working for the Ernie McKay Orchestra where he sang in a crooning style influenced by Harry Mills of the Mills Brothers and Perry Como. In 1940, he was singing for Cleveland bandleader Sammy Watkins, who suggested he change his name to Dean Martin.

He met Jerry Lewis at the Glass Hat Club in New York, where they both were performing. Their new friendship led to their joining in each other's acts and the formation of a music and comedy team. They made their television debut on Ed Sullivan's *The Toast of The Town* on June 20, 1948. After working together for ten years of appearing on television, radio and in motion pictures, the team of Martin and Lewis broke up.

Now as a solo performer, Dean Martin found great success in motion pictures and as a recording artist. As Martin's solo career progressed, he and Frank Sinatra became very good friends. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, Martin and Sinatra, along with friends Joey Bishop, Peter Lawford and Sammy Davis Jr., formed the Rat Pack. The group was named after a group of social friends called the Holmby Hills Rat Pack centered on Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Frank Sinatra was also a member of that pack.

Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis had not seen or spoken to each other since their act ended 20 years earlier. The two were reunited on the Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon benefiting the Muscular Dystrophy Association in September of 1976. Frank Sinatra surprised Lewis by bringing Martin out on stage. The two men embraced as the audience gave them a standing ovation.

They appeared together in public one more time on Dean Martin's 72nd birthday in 1989. On December 8, 1989, Martin joined many stars in Sammy Davis Jr.'s 60th anniversary celebration. Martin also congratulated Frank Sinatra on his 75th birthday special in December of 1990. His final Las Vegas shows were at Bally's Hotel in 1991.

**Ken Lane** - was born Kermit Lane. He was best known as Dean Martin's pianist on *The Dean Martin Show* during the late 1960's and early 1970's. *Everybody Loves Somebody* would be his biggest hit as a composer. Among his other credits, Lane composed the music for *Lucy Gets Lucky*, a 1975 made-for-TV movie starring Lucille Ball.

**The Golddiggers** - performed on television, on "LIVE" tours and internationally with the USO. The group was formed in 1968, dissolved in 1992 and reorganized in 2007.

*The Dean Martin Show* producer-director Greg Garrison had the idea of a series with a nostalgic 1930's feel. The name was a tribute to "The Gold Diggers" featured in the Busby Berkeley - Warner Bros. films of the 1930's and 1940's.

The initial group, which numbered 12 performers, was introduced on *The Dean Martin Show* in Spring 1968. On June 20, 1968, they debuted in their own weekly summer variety series, *Dean Martin Presents The Golddiggers*.

In the fall of 1970, The Golddiggers became a regular part of the cast of *The Dean Martin Show*. That same season, four of the members of The Golddiggers (Michelle DellaFave, Tara Leigh, Susan Lund and Wanda Bailey) were selected by Greg Garrison and Lee Hale to form a smaller quartet called 'The Dingaling Sisters', which appeared from time to time in their own solo performances on Martin's show.

In fall 1971, The Golddiggers group was spun off from *The Dean Martin Show* to headline their own weekly half-hour syndicated series entitled *Chevrolet Presents The Golddiggers*.

From 1973 until the 1990's The Golddiggers appeared regularly on Dean Martin's television specials. The Golddiggers also went on the road, opening the Las Vegas MGM Grand Hotel and Casino performing in the "Celebrity Room" to sold out crowds with Dean Martin to more than 2,000,000 people. They continued working with Dean Martin until he retired in 1991.

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## **REFERENCES**

Internet Movie Database

Wikipedia

