



Sammy Davis Jr

American singer, dancer, actor, [vaudevillian](#), and comedian.

Riviera Hotel

2007

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Bio

Davis was born on December 8, 1925, in the [Harlem](#) section of [Manhattan](#) in New York City, the son of African-American entertainer and stage performer [Sammy Davis Sr.](#) (1900–1988) and tap dancer and stage performer [Elvera Sanchez](#) (1905–2000).

At age three, Davis began his career in vaudeville with his father [Sammy Davis Sr.](#) and the [Will Mastin Trio](#), which toured nationally, and his film career began in 1933. After military service (In 1943, during [World War II](#), Davis was drafted into the [U.S. Army](#) at age 18) , Davis, who earned the [American Campaign Medal](#) and [World War II Victory Medal](#), was discharged in 1945 with the rank of private. After his discharge, Davis rejoined the family dance act, which played at clubs around [Portland, Oregon](#). He also recorded [blues](#) songs for [Capitol Records](#) in 1949 under the pseudonyms Shorty Muggins and Charlie Green. Davis returned to the trio and became an overnight sensation following a nightclub performance at [Ciro's](#) (in [West Hollywood](#)) after the [1951 Academy Awards](#). With the trio, he became a recording artist. In 1953, Davis was offered his own television show on [ABC](#), *Three for the Road—with the Will Mastin Trio*.^{[23][24][25]} The network spent \$20,000 filming the pilot. The network could not get a sponsor, so the show was dropped. In 1954, Davis was hired to sing the title song for the [Universal Pictures](#) film *Six Bridges to Cross*. In 1956, he starred in the Broadway musical *Mr. Wonderful*. In 1958, Davis was hired to crown the winner of the Miss [Cavalcade of Jazz](#) beauty contest. In 1959, Davis became a member of the [Rat Pack](#), led by his friend [Frank Sinatra](#), which included fellow performers [Dean Martin](#), [Joey Bishop](#), and [Peter Lawford](#), a brother-in-law of [John F. Kennedy](#). Initially, Sinatra called the gathering "the Clan", Initially, Sinatra called the gathering "the Clan", but Davis voiced his opposition, saying that it reminded people of the [Ku Klux Klan](#). Sinatra renamed the group "the Summit". One long night of poker that went on into the early morning saw the men drunken and disheveled. As [Angie Dickinson](#) approached the group, she said, "You all look like a pack of rats." The nickname caught on, and they were then called the Rat Pack, the name of the earlier group led by [Humphrey Bogart](#) and his wife, [Lauren Bacall](#), who originally made the remark about the "pack of rats" they associated with. The group around Sinatra made several movies together, including *Ocean's 11* (1960), *Sergeants 3* (1962), and *Robin and the 7 Hoods* (1964), and they performed onstage together in Las Vegas. In 1964, Davis was the first African American to sing at the Copacabana night club in New York. Davis was a headliner at [The Frontier Casino](#) in Las Vegas, but owing to [Jim Crow practices](#) in Las Vegas, he was required (as were all black performers in the 1950s) to lodge in a rooming house on the west side of the city instead of in the hotels as his white colleagues did. No dressing rooms were provided for black performers, and they had to wait outside by the swimming pool between acts. Davis and other black artists could entertain but could not stay at the hotels where they performed, gamble in the casinos, or dine or drink in the hotel restaurants and bars. Davis later refused to work at places that practiced [racial segregation](#). He signed with Motown to update his sound and appeal to young people. His deal to have his own label with the company fell through. He had an unexpected No. 1 hit with "[The Candy Man](#)" with [MGM Records](#) in 1972.

Davis had a friendship with [Elvis Presley](#) in the late 1960s, as they both were top-draw acts in Vegas at the same time. On May 27–28, 1973, Davis hosted the first annual, 20-hour Highway Safety Foundation [telethon](#). He made a cameo appearance on *General Hospital* and had a recurring role as Chip Warren on *One Life to Live*, for which he received a 1980 [Daytime Emmy Award](#) nomination. He was also a game show fan, appearing on *Family Feud* in 1979 and *Tattletales* with his wife Altovise in the 1970s. In 1988, Davis was billed to tour with Frank Sinatra and Liza Minnelli on the tour dubbed as "The Ultimate Event." During the tour in 1989, Davis was diagnosed with throat cancer; his treatments prevented him from performing. He was a heavy smoker and had often smoked four packs of cigarettes a day as an adult. Davis died of complications from throat cancer at his home in Beverly Hills, California, on May 16, 1990, at age 64

Fun Fact: On May 18, 1990, two days after his death, the neon lights of the [Las Vegas Strip](#) were darkened for ten minutes as a tribute to Davis.

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Jack Weinstein
Humanitarian
MGM Hotel
2007

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Bio

Jack Weinstein (February 17, 1927 – January 13, 2021) was born in Detroit, Michigan to parents Joseph and Pauline (Sosnick) Weinstein. He had 5 siblings - Fred, Harry, Hyman, Louis and Sylvia - all of whom are deceased. Jack attended Cass Technical High School in Detroit Michigan. He is survived by his wife Nancy (Steinweg) Weinstein, his children Leonard, Daniel, Mary, Sean, Joseph and Pauline and grandchildren Hillary, Charles, Zachary, with one on the way (as of January 2021). Weinstein, [who founded Tower of Jewels](#) in 1964 and opened the first store at 320 Fremont Street. Jack, a Las Vegas fixture and a longtime jeweler who built a regional empire, with 12 stores including several Texas locations during its heyday in the 1990s.

Jack Weinstein grew up with an entrepreneurial spirit. His family owned a candy store, and lived above it, in a tough neighborhood in Detroit. He inherited his parents' work ethics, often working from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. six days a week – a discipline that continued until he retired from his company in 2016. The family's candy shop would go through several iterations, later becoming a department store. Jack Weinstein didn't like working for them because they didn't listen to his ideas, so by 1963, he left for the West Coast, selling brand watches to retail stores from his truck. He originally set out for Los Angeles and on his way there he stopped in Las Vegas, 'This is the place,' It was not part of his original plan to stop there, but he just sort of fell for the town and fell in love with it. He saw a lot of opportunities in Las Vegas, like so many people who moved there, to be a pioneer and to really make an impact. Jack Weinstein was a pioneer in the industry during the 1960s when most Americans purchased their jewelry from brands; he manufactured and sold his own designs. It took hard work and a commitment to cost savings for customers. Weinstein would often buy his jewelry materials, rough diamonds and raw gold, from wholesalers. And with the expertise of his diamond cutters, polishers and setters, the materials would be molded and polished into fine jewelry, often saving customers money along the way. That often meant traveling abroad. In a 1987 Review-Journal article, Weinstein said he would fly to Israel five times a year and to Belgium to pick uncut diamonds. Traveling for jewelry purchases was part of his life that continued until he was in his late 60s. Weinstein did it all: from purchasing to advertising to building out his own showcases. "It's the only way you get it done your way," he said in the article. "Otherwise you compromise." Weinstein's sons, Joseph and Sean, continue to run Tower of Jewels today, a store located on 896 E Sahara Ave. Weinstein has counted many Nevada politicians, business leaders and entrepreneurs, and stars among his friends and clients over the years. Jack was so proud of his family. He was a great friend, caring father, superman husband, counselor and mentor to many. He was passionate about

helping others, donating generously to charitable organizations over the course of his 56 years in Southern Nevada. **Fun Fact:** Weinstein was convicted in 1975 of interstate transportation of more than \$12,000 worth of stolen jewels. Weinstein was charged with having more than 115 pieces of jewelry, including diamonds, antique watches, gold pins and brooches that the FBI said matched items taken in a Kansas City, Mo., robbery. Weinstein denied knowing that the jewelry was stolen and appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but the guilty verdict was upheld.



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Bobby Darin

American singer, multi-instrumentalist, impressionist, and actor

Flamingo Hotel

2007

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Bio

Bobby Darin (born **Walden Robert Cassotto**; May 14, 1936 (in the [East Harlem](#) neighborhood of New York City) – December 20, 1973) performed jazz, pop, rock and roll, folk, swing, and country music.

He started his career as a songwriter for [Connie Francis](#). He recorded his first million-selling single, "[Splish Splash](#)", in 1958 and many more followed. He made another recording in 1958 for [Brunswick Records](#) with a band called The Ding Dongs. With the success of "Splish Splash" the single was re-released by [Atco Records](#) as "[Early in the Morning](#)" with the band renamed as The Rinky Dinks. It charted, and made it to number 24 in the United States. In 1959, Darin recorded the self-penned "[Dream Lover](#)", a ballad that became a multi-million seller. His next single, "[Mack the Knife](#)", the standard from [Kurt Weill's](#) [Threepenny Opera](#), was given a vamping jazz-pop interpretation. Although Darin was initially opposed to releasing it as a single, the song went to No. 1 on the chart for nine weeks, sold two million copies, and won the [Grammy Award for Record of the Year](#) in 1960. Darin was also voted the [Grammy Award for Best New Artist](#) that year, and "Mack the Knife" has since been honored with a [Grammy Hall of Fame Award](#). The late-1950s success included Darin setting the all-time attendance record at the [Copacabana](#) nightclub in Manhattan and headlining at the major [casinos](#) in [Las Vegas](#). In the 1960s, Darin owned and operated, with [Doris Day's](#) son [Terry Melcher](#), a music publishing and production company. He signed [Wayne Newton](#) and gave him the song "[Danke Schoen](#)", which became Newton's breakout hit. In 1962, Darin began to write and sing [country music](#). In 1959 he became the only actor ever to have been signed to five major Hollywood [film studios](#). He wrote music for several films in which he appeared. His first major film, [Come September](#) (1961), was a teenager-oriented romantic comedy with [Rock Hudson](#) and [Gina Lollobrigida](#) and featuring 18-year-old actress [Sandra Dee](#). In 1962 he won a [Golden Globe Award](#) for his first film, [Come September](#), co-starring his first wife, actress [Sandra Dee](#). They met during the production of the film, and got married soon afterward. Dee gave birth to a son, Dodd Mitchell Darin (also known as Morgan Mitchell) on December 16, 1961. Dee and Darin made a few films together with moderate success. During the 1960s, he became more politically active and worked on [Robert F. Kennedy's](#) Democratic presidential campaign. In 1963, he was nominated for an [Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor](#) for his role as a [shell-shocked](#) soldier in [Captain Newman, M.D.](#) Dee and Darin divorced on March 7, 1967. In October 1964, he appeared in "The John Gillman Story" episode of [NBC's](#) [Wagon Train western](#) television series. Beginning on July 27, 1972, he starred in his own television variety show on NBC, [Dean Martin Presents: The Bobby Darin Amusement Company](#), which ran for seven episodes ending on September 7, 1972. Beginning on January 19, 1973, he starred in a similar show on NBC called [The Bobby Darin Show](#). That show ran for 13 episodes ending on April 27, 1973. Darin subsequently made television guest appearances and remained a top draw. Darin's second wife was Andrea Yeager, a legal secretary he met in 1970 and married on June 25, 1973, after the couple had lived together for three years. Four months later, in October 1973, the couple divorced amid strain caused by Darin's worsening health problems. Darin suffered from poor health his entire life. He was frail as an infant and, beginning at age eight, was stricken with recurring bouts of [rheumatic fever](#) that left him with a seriously weakened heart. During his first [heart surgery](#), in January 1971, he had two [artificial valves](#) implanted in his heart. He spent most of that year recovering from the surgery. During the last few years of his life, he was often administered oxygen during and after his performances on stage and screen. In 1990, Darin was inducted into the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#), with singer and close friend [Paul Anka](#) announcing the honor. In 1999, Darin was voted into the [Songwriters Hall of Fame](#). In 1968 he discovered the woman who had raised him was his grandmother, not his mother as he thought, and learned that the

woman he thought was his sister was actually his mother. Those events deeply affected Darin and sent him into a long period of seclusion. Although he made a successful comeback (in television) in the early 1970s, his health was beginning to fail, as he had always expected: following bouts of [rheumatic fever](#) in childhood. The knowledge of his vulnerability had always spurred him on to use his musical talent while still young. He died at the age of 37 after a heart operation in Los Angeles.

Fun Fact: Darin traveled with [Robert F. Kennedy](#) and worked on the politician's 1968 presidential campaign. Bobby Darin was present on the night of June 4/5, 1968, at the [Ambassador Hotel](#) in Los Angeles at the time of [Robert Kennedy's assassination](#). He also was an enthusiastic [chess](#) player. His television show included an occasional segment in which he would explain a chess move. He arranged with the [United States Chess Federation](#) to sponsor a [grandmaster](#) tournament, which pitted him against the young Eastern Division champion Stephen Ryder, with the largest prize fund in history, but the event was canceled after his death.

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K-Paz De La Sierra
Música Mexicana Band
New York New York
2007

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Bio

Duranguense superstars [K-Paz de la Sierra](#) are a product of, and perhaps pacesetters in, the regional Mexican music boom that has hit the city of Chicago and since spread throughout the U.S. and Mexico. Thanks to the enormous and regionally diverse Mexican population in Chicago, the city has become a hotbed for musical creativity, and hence a recording industry hub for the genre. [K-Paz de la Sierra](#) burst onto the scene in 2003 with their first single, "Con Olor a Hierba," which was quickly followed up by the radio hit "Jambalaya." Just a few singles had stirred up so much attention that when their debut record hit the shelves, [Arrasando con Fuego](#) sold better than 32,000 copies in its first week. It wasn't long before the record went gold. Signing with Mexican music superpower Univision went a long way toward guaranteeing their success. [K-Paz](#) recorded six more records, three -- 2005's [Mas Capaces Que Nunca](#), 2006's [Conquistando Corazones](#), and 2007's [Capaz de Todo por Ti](#) -- reached the top spot on Mexican Regional charts. The group also made two appearances on the Billboard Top 200, for the hits "Mas Capaces Que Nunca" and "Pensando en Ti," an impressive achievement for a group playing a style that the industry barely recognized ten years prior. Tragedy struck the group in December 2007, however, when lead singer [Sergio Gomez](#) was tortured and killed after a concert in Michoacan. His brother [Juan Gomez](#) took over leadership of the group and in January, [Miguel Galindo](#) was announced as the group's new lead vocalist. There was little harmony within the new lineup. Within eight months, five members, including second vocalist [Humberto Durán](#), left the group to create [Majestad de la Sierra](#), leaving only [Gomez](#) and [Galindo](#) as [K-Paz de la Sierra](#). The pair recruited new members and in 2009, issued the album [Como un Tatuaje](#) -- which went to number four at Mexican Regional Albums and number eight at Top Latin Albums -- as well as a pair of compilations. The touring unit was tight as they played the U.S., Mexico, and South America as well as Spain, but personnel continued to shift behind the two leaders. A final Disa album, [Para](#)

[Toda La Vida](#), was released in 2011 and reached the eighth position at Mexican Regional albums. The group split again in 2012, with [Juan Gomez](#) and [Galindo](#) being charged with mismanagement. They were sued by [Felicitas Lopez](#) ([Sergio](#)'s widow) for ownership of the band's name. She won the court battle in 2016. Keyboardist and musical director [Sergio Caballero](#) took over the band's leadership with [Jesus Morales](#) becoming its lead vocalist. Longtime second vocalist Luis [Eduardo Guadarrama](#) remained and brought in his brothers [Gabriel Guadarrama](#) and [Roberto Guadarrama](#) on keyboards and tambura respectively; [Jorge Garduño](#) on electric tuba and [Frank Sanchez](#) on drums rounded out the new lineup. The outfit undertook touring immediately and went back into the studio to emerge with [Las Mas Perronas](#) on Discos America in the summer of 2017.

Fun Fact: The group conducts international tours in Central America with resounding success in Guatemala, along with the resounding success it had in his first visit to Colombia, where his fans sang all the repertoire of the group without losing the smallest detail.