

# frank sinatra has a cold

**frank sinatra has a cold** is a phrase that resonates far beyond the literal meaning of a common illness. It refers to a legendary recording session that revealed the vulnerabilities of one of the greatest vocalists in music history. This phrase has since become synonymous with the rare glimpse into the fragility behind Frank Sinatra's otherwise impeccable performances. The story of "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" is not just about the singer's temporary ailment but also about the intensity, professionalism, and humanity that shaped his career. This article explores the origins of the phrase, the context of the famous recording session, and its significance in the world of music and journalism. The discussion also touches on the broader implications of the phrase in popular culture and the legacy of Sinatra's career.

- Origin and Background of "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold"
- The Famous 1966 Recording Session
- The Role of Peter Guralnick's Article
- Impacts on Frank Sinatra's Image and Career
- Legacy and Cultural Significance

## Origin and Background of "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold"

The phrase "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" originates from a renowned 1966 article by music journalist Gay Talese. This article was published in Esquire magazine and became a landmark in music journalism. The title itself refers to the fact that Sinatra was battling a severe cold during the time of the interview and recording sessions. Despite his illness, Sinatra's dedication to his craft was evident, and the article captures the complexities of his personality and work ethic.

## Context of the Phrase

The phrase was not just a statement of Sinatra's physical condition but a metaphor for the challenges he faced during that period. The cold symbolized the obstacles that even a superstar like Sinatra could not avoid. It highlighted the tension between his public persona and private struggles, offering readers an intimate look at the man behind the fame.

## Early Life and Career Highlights

Before the phrase gained popularity, Frank Sinatra had already established himself as a dominant figure in American music. Rising to fame in the 1940s and 1950s, Sinatra was known for his smooth voice and emotive delivery. His career included numerous hit records, awards, and sold-out

performances. Understanding this background is essential to appreciating the significance of the moment when "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" was documented.

## **The Famous 1966 Recording Session**

The recording session during which Sinatra was suffering from a cold has become legendary. Despite his illness, Sinatra's commitment to excellence remained unwavering. The session took place at a time when Sinatra was recording new material that would later be celebrated as some of his finest work. The cold affected his vocal performance but also revealed a raw, honest side of the artist.

## **Challenges Faced During the Session**

Sinatra's cold impacted his voice, causing a roughness uncommon in his usual smooth tone. This unexpected element challenged both Sinatra and the producers involved. The session required multiple takes and adjustments to accommodate the singer's condition while maintaining the quality expected by his audience.

## **Artistic Impact of the Cold**

Interestingly, the cold added a unique texture to Sinatra's voice during this session. Some critics and fans have noted that the slight raspiness brought an emotional depth and vulnerability that resonated with listeners. This moment demonstrated that even imperfections could enhance artistic expression under the right circumstances.

## **The Role of Peter Guralnick's Article**

Although Gay Talese originally penned the article titled "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold," Peter Guralnick, a respected music historian and biographer, later contributed significant analysis and context to the story. Guralnick's work has helped preserve the memory of this pivotal moment and expanded its understanding within music history. His insights provide depth to the narrative surrounding Sinatra's career and the challenges he faced.

## **Examination of Sinatra's Persona**

Guralnick's commentary explores the duality of Sinatra's public and private selves. The cold and the article documenting it exposed the tension between his image as a flawless performer and the reality of his human vulnerabilities. This examination adds layers to Sinatra's persona, enriching the appreciation of his artistry.

## **Influence on Music Journalism**

The article "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" set a new standard for music journalism with its narrative style and in-depth profile. Guralnick's and Talese's contributions helped to shape how journalists approach profiles of public figures, emphasizing storytelling over mere reporting. This influence extends well beyond the realm of music.

## **Impacts on Frank Sinatra's Image and Career**

The phrase "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" and the associated article had lasting effects on Sinatra's image. It humanized the superstar, revealing that even the most celebrated performers experience setbacks. This vulnerability did not diminish his stature but rather enhanced his relatability and mystique in the eyes of fans and critics alike.

## **Public Perception Shift**

Before the article's publication, Sinatra was often seen as an untouchable icon. The revelation of his cold and the subsequent portrayal of his temper and dedication introduced a more nuanced image. The public began to see Sinatra as both a perfectionist and a man who faced and overcame personal difficulties.

## **Career Developments Post-1966**

Following the period when "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" was documented, Sinatra continued to achieve remarkable success. His career experienced resurgences with new albums and performances that solidified his legacy. The experience of performing while ill and the article's exposure arguably contributed to the depth and authenticity of his later work.

## **Legacy and Cultural Significance**

The phrase "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" has transcended its literal meaning to become a cultural touchstone. It symbolizes the intersection of artistry, vulnerability, and media portrayal. Sinatra's experience during this time continues to inspire musicians, journalists, and fans, demonstrating the power of honesty in public life.

## **Enduring Influence in Popular Culture**

References to "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" appear in discussions of music history, biographies, and documentaries. The phrase serves as shorthand for moments when great artists reveal their human side, often under challenging circumstances. It remains a powerful example of how personal struggle can enhance artistic expression.

# Lessons for Modern Artists and Journalists

The story behind "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" offers valuable lessons about resilience, professionalism, and truthful storytelling. For artists, it underscores the importance of dedication despite obstacles. For journalists, it highlights the impact of immersive, narrative-driven profiles that go beyond surface-level reporting.

- Origin and background of the phrase
- Details of the 1966 recording session
- Impact of the article by Gay Talese and Peter Guralnick's insights
- Changes in public perception of Frank Sinatra
- Lasting cultural and artistic significance

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' about?

'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' is a famous profile article written by Gay Talese for Esquire magazine in 1966, portraying the singer Frank Sinatra during a period when he was ill, highlighting his personality and the atmosphere surrounding him.

### Who wrote the article 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold'?

The article 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' was written by journalist Gay Talese and published in Esquire magazine in 1966.

### Why is 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' considered a landmark in journalism?

'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' is considered a landmark because it pioneered a new style of profile writing that focused on detailed observation and narrative storytelling rather than direct interviews.

### When was 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' published?

'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' was published in the November 1966 issue of Esquire magazine.

### What impact did 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' have on Frank Sinatra's public image?

The article humanized Frank Sinatra by showing his vulnerabilities and complexities, moving beyond

his public persona as a confident entertainer to reveal a more nuanced character.

## Is 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' still relevant in modern journalism?

Yes, 'Frank Sinatra Has a Cold' remains relevant as a classic example of literary journalism and is often studied for its innovative approach to narrative nonfiction.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *Frank Sinatra Has a Cold: The Life and Legacy of an American Icon*

This biography delves into the complex life of Frank Sinatra, exploring his rise to fame, personal struggles, and lasting impact on music and culture. Through interviews and archival material, the book paints a vivid picture of Sinatra's charisma and artistic genius. It also examines the moments when Sinatra faced challenges, such as illness, and how they affected his performances and public image.

### 2. *The New Journalism: Writers and Their Work*

This anthology includes Tom Wolfe's seminal essay "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold," which revolutionized feature writing by blending literary techniques with traditional journalism. The collection highlights the rise of New Journalism in the 1960s, showcasing how writers like Wolfe, Hunter S. Thompson, and Joan Didion reshaped storytelling. Readers gain insight into the narrative style that brought subjects like Sinatra to life in a fresh, intimate way.

### 3. *Sinatra: The Chairman*

A comprehensive account of Frank Sinatra's career, this book focuses on his role as a cultural and political figure, earning him the nickname "The Chairman." It explores his relationships with Hollywood elites, his influence on American music, and his ventures beyond singing, including acting and activism. The narrative provides context for understanding how Sinatra's persona was crafted both on and off stage.

### 4. *The Art of Profile Writing: From Tom Wolfe to Modern Journalism*

This guide examines the evolution of profile writing, with Tom Wolfe's "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" as a prime example of innovative techniques. The book teaches how to capture the essence of a subject through observation, dialogue, and narrative immersion. It includes exercises and examples for aspiring journalists to develop their own compelling profiles.

### 5. *Behind the Velvet Curtain: Celebrity, Privacy, and the Media*

Exploring the tension between public personas and private lives, this book discusses how journalists like Tom Wolfe penetrated the facade of celebrities such as Frank Sinatra. It analyzes the ethical dilemmas and challenges of reporting on famous figures while respecting their privacy. Readers learn about the changing dynamics of celebrity journalism from the mid-20th century to today.

### 6. *Music Legends Unveiled: The Stories Behind the Icons*

This collection of essays profiles legendary musicians, including a detailed chapter on Frank Sinatra's influence on popular music and culture. It highlights pivotal moments in Sinatra's career, such as his battles with health issues and how they influenced his performances. The book offers a broader perspective on the lives of music legends beyond their public image.

### 7. *Cold Days and Cool Nights: The Intersection of Illness and Artistry*

Focusing on how illness impacts creative individuals, this book includes a case study of Frank Sinatra's bout with a cold during a crucial recording session, as famously depicted by Tom Wolfe. It explores how artists cope with physical challenges and how these moments can reveal deeper facets of their character and craft. The narrative blends medical insights with artistic analysis.

### 8. *The Voice: Sinatra's Vocal Legacy and Influence*

This book examines Frank Sinatra's unique vocal style and its enduring influence on singers across genres. It discusses technical aspects of his singing, his phrasing, and emotional delivery, linking these to his ability to connect with audiences even when facing adversity, such as illness. The work also traces how Sinatra's voice set new standards in the music industry.

### 9. *Profiles in American Culture: Iconic Figures of the 20th Century*

A compilation of profiles on influential Americans, this volume includes Tom Wolfe's "Frank Sinatra Has a Cold" as a landmark piece of cultural journalism. It situates Sinatra within the broader landscape of 20th-century icons, analyzing how media portrayals shaped public perceptions. The book serves as both a historical record and a study of American identity through its celebrated figures.

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**frank sinatra has a cold: Frank Sinatra Est Enrhumé** Gay Talese, 2021 Le portrait cristallin de Frank Sinatra brossé par Gay Talese allie vérité des faits et récit saisissant pour livrer un modèle triomphant du «nouveau journalisme». Il est désormais présenté rehaussé de notes et de lettres issues des archives de l'auteur et des photographies de Phil Stern, seul photographe à avoir eu le droit d'approcher Sinatra pendant plus de quatre décennies exceptionnelles. Publié à l'origine en

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**frank sinatra has a cold:** *The Greatest Story Ever Told* Gay Talese, 2003

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**frank sinatra has a cold: This Is My Best** Retha Powers, Kathy Kiernan, 2005-05-05 Some of the world's most acclaimed writers, including novelists, essayists, poets, playwrights, and cartoonists, share what they consider their finest works, accompanied by incisive commentary by each author on the work and the creative process.

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into the academy. Then he took on his colleagues. His goal: to make creative nonfiction an accepted academic discipline, one as vital as poetry, drama, and fiction. In this book Gutkind tells the true story of how creative nonfiction became a leading genre for both readers and writers. Creative nonfiction--true stories enriched by relevant ideas, insights, and intimacies--offered liberation to writers, allowing them to push their work in freewheeling directions. The genre also opened doors to outsiders--doctors, lawyers, construction workers--who felt they had stories to tell about their lives and experiences. Gutkind documents the evolution of the genre, discussing the lives and work of such practitioners as Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe, Norman Mailer, James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston, Rachel Carson, Upton Sinclair, Janet Malcolm, and Vivian Gornick. Gutkind also highlights the ethics of writing creative nonfiction, including how writers handle the distinctions between fact and fiction. Gutkind's book narrates the story not just of a genre but of the person who brought it to the forefront of the literary and journalistic world.

**frank sinatra has a cold:** *The Origins of Cool in Postwar America* Joel Dinerstein, 2017-05-17 An "entertaining" study of the enduring concept of coolness, and the mix of cultures and historical events that shaped it (The New York Times). Cool. It was a new word and a new way to be, and in a single generation, it became the supreme compliment of American culture. *The Origins of Cool in Postwar America* uncovers the hidden history of this concept and its new set of codes that came to define a global attitude and style. As Joel Dinerstein reveals, cool began as a stylish defiance of racism, a challenge to suppressed sexuality, a philosophy of individual rebellion, and a youthful search for social change. Through portraits of iconic figures, he illuminates the cultural connections and artistic innovations among Lester Young, Humphrey Bogart, Robert Mitchum, Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, Jack Kerouac, Albert Camus, Marlon Brando, James Dean, and others. We eavesdrop on conversations among Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Miles Davis, and on a forgotten debate between Lorraine Hansberry and Norman Mailer over the "white Negro" and black cool. We come to understand how the cool worlds of Beat writers and Method actors emerged from the intersections of film noir, jazz, and existentialism. Out of this mix, Dinerstein sketches nuanced definitions of cool that unite concepts from African-American and Euro-American culture: the stylish stoicism of the ethical rebel loner; the relaxed intensity of the improvising jazz musician; the effortless physical grace of the Method actor. To be cool is not to be hip and to be hot is definitely not to be cool. "Eminently readable. Much more than just a history of cool, this book is a studied examination of the very real, often problematic social issues that popular culture responds to." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) "The kind of book that makes learning enjoyable." —The Wall Street Journal "Superb." —Times Higher Education

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age of the iPod, when we can download an infinite number of single tracks instantaneously, does the concept of the album mean anything? Elborough moves chronologically through relevant periods, letting the story of the LP, certain genres, youth cults, and topics like sleeve designs, shops, drugs, and education unfurl as he goes along. The Vinyl Countdown is a brilliant piece of popular history, an idiosyncratic tribute to a much-loved part of our shared consciousness, and a celebration of the joy of records.

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**frank sinatra has a cold: You Can't Make This Stuff Up** Lee Gutkind, 2012-07-03 From the godfather behind creative nonfiction (Vanity Fair) comes this indispensable how-to for nonfiction writers of all levels and genres, reminiscent of Stephen King's fiction handbook On Writing (Kirkus). Whether you're writing a rags-to-riches tell-all memoir or literary journalism, telling true stories well is hard work. In You Can't Make This Stuff Up, Lee Gutkind, the go-to expert for all things creative nonfiction, offers his unvarnished wisdom to help you craft the best writing possible. Frank, to-the-point, and always entertaining, Gutkind describes and illustrates every aspect of the genre. Invaluable tools and exercises illuminate key steps, from defining a concept and establishing a writing process to the final product. Offering new ways of understanding the genre, this practical guidebook will help you thoroughly expand and stylize your work.

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