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Sandy Hackett brings old-school fun to Algonquin Arts Theatre

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Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack Show will be packin' 'em at the Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan this weekend. / File photo

Written by Ed Condran Correspondent

Comedian Buddy Hackett lives – at least for the first minute of Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack show.

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"My father-in-law acts as the voice of God to start the production," Lisa Dawn Miller said prior to the show's engagement last year at Red Bank's Count Basie Theatre. "He recorded the voiceover not in 2003). He sends the guys in the Rat Pack show in our contemporary times."

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Members of the Rat Pack – Frank Sinatra, Martin Luther King Jr., and Joey Bishop – have all passed away. Sandy is keeping the act alive courtesy of the theatrical production that is returning to the area this weekend at



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SANDY HACKETT'S RAT PACK SHOW

SPONSORED BY: Squan Tavern
WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday,

May 2, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 3 and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4

WHERE: Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan

TICKETS: \$20-\$41
INFO: 732-528-9211

or algonquinarts.org

Manasquan's Algonquin Arts Theatre.

"It's fun watching these classic characters pick up on current events," Miller said. "They have fun with what's in the news in an old school kind of way."

Miller portrays the love of Sinatra's life (Ava Gardner). "I play a woman who is very special to Frank," Miller said.

But the star of the show is Hackett, who portrays Bishop.

"Sandy knew Joey his entire life," Miller said. "They were so close that he always called Bishop 'Uncle Joey.' He really understands Joey Bishop."

Hackett also understands how well regional humor works.

"When we come East, count on Sandy to do his research and have fun with what's happening in your town," Miller said.

And then there is the chemistry among the Rat Pack.

"That's what made these guys so special," Miller said. "They really did have fun with each other and I think you can see that in our production. These guys had such an impact in the industry."

So did Miller's father, the late songwriter Ron Miller, who wrote a number of hits for Stevie Wonder, including "For Once In My Life," "A Place In The Sun" and "Heaven Help Us All." He also penned the chart-topping smash "Touch Me in The Morning" for Diana Ross.

"We do some of my dad's songs in the show," Miller said. "He wrote some amazing songs and I want those songs to live on. What we present is old-school fun. It's comedy and music and a good time. It's the kind of entertainment that Sandy and I grew up on."

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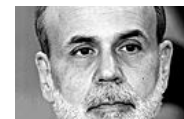
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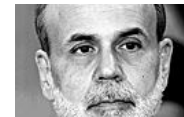
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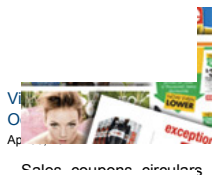
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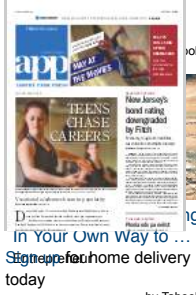


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