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The Frank Sinatra Show – High Hopes

Picture: C- Sound: C Extras: C Episode: B-

In one of the more interesting installments of Frank Sinatra's Timex-sponsored series from 1957, this DVD of a strong show dubbed **High Hopes** offers Dean Martin, Bing Crosby and Mitzi Gaynor opening the show singing the title song. Jimmy Durante later joins them in what is a very entertaining nearly hour-long installment of the series. The songs performed include:

- 1) *High Hopes* (Martin/Crosby/Gaynor)
- 2) *Day In & Day Out* (Sinatra)
- 3) *Together* (Sinatra/Martin/Crosby)
- 4) *Hurricane* (Gaynor)
- 5) *Talk To Me* (Sinatra/Gaynor)
- 6) *Dancing Cheek To Cheek* (Martin/Crosby/Gaynor)
- 7) *Wrap Up Your Troubles In A Dream* (Martin)
- 8) *Give Us The Old Songs medley* (Sinatra/Martin/Crosby)
- 9) *Old Man River* (Sinatra/Martin/Crosby)
- 10) *High Hopes* (Sinatra & children)
- 11) *It Was Just One Of Those Things* (Sinatra)
- 12) *Angel Eyes* (Sinatra)
- 13) *The Lady Is A Tramp* (Sinatra)
- 14) *Start Each Day With A Song/Ink A Doo/So Baby Won't You Please Come Home* – Medley with Sinatra, Martin, Crosby and Jimmy Durante

The best thing is that everyone involved was great and are great here, doing their work during peak eras of their careers. The song choices are exceptional and some of the songs that were new then are classics now. You can see them when they were fresh and realize why they stayed that way.

The 1.33 X 1 image is an older film copy of the kinescope of the show with artifacts throughout and low definition quality as a result. We have seen muddier, but bit as dirty in so many places. The sound take the old monophonic track and spreads it out over Dolby Digital 5.1, but the fidelity is so dated, it does not help much. Extras are few and include biography, filmography and discography text for the Sinatra, Martin and Crosby, plus filmography-only text for Mitzi Gaynor and Durante. Points to the discographies for being more thorough than expected, though the other text is fine. Even with tech limits, **High Hopes** is worth a look.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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