

# LOUIS HOOVER - Biography

## 1960s

Louis grew up on the streets of North London, hanging around backstage, dressing rooms and TV studios, learning from his older sister CANDY, a 60's teenage singing star. At fifteen, he stumbled upon a Frank Sinatra Album at home, and was curious. 'I thought Frank Sinatra was a movie actor, as most kids did, back in the 60's!' says Louis. But when 'the needle touched the vinyl', the young Louis fate was sealed, and THIS music, was to be his life.

## 1970s

'In those days everyone raved about Sinatra's phrasing', recalls sister Candy, 'as as a kid, Louis had an uncanny talent for anticipating Sinatra's phrasing. Not only was this music in his blood, his voice was beginning to *sound* like a young Sinatra or Tony Bennett, maybe with a twist of Tamla soul thrown in'. Later, in the 80's, this would prove fortuitous...

Louis saw Sinatra live THREE times as a teenager. 'When I came out of the Royal Albert Hall, although I was only seventeen, I **knew** I would one day stand on that same stage' says Louis. 'It really was a strange experience; a definite premonition that physically shook me, but then I have had them a few times'.

In 2005, astoundingly, his premonition came true. As the culmination of his annual UK tour, Louis performed, together with sixty piece orchestra as predicted, to a sell out Royal Albert Hall audience, receiving a deserved nine minute standing ovation. Which is quite an amazing story in itself.

## 1980s

Louis acting talent was spotted early by his drama teacher, Eileen Brophy, at school. She recommended that he attend a full time stage school. His parents were not wealthy enough to pay the fees, but Louis won a government scholarship to attend the ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL in London. On leaving AES, being too young to be taken credibly as a singer, he embarked on a career as a stand-up comic, who also 'sang a little'. Friends and family had always been entertained by Louis keen sense of humor and ability to make people laugh. But in the end, music was to prove his real love.

In 1985 Louis signed to record producer Tony Atkins and enjoyed USA & UK chart success, with cover versions of Marvin Gaye's MERCY, MERCY ME, The Kingsmen's LOUIE LOUIE, and The Temptations AIN'T TOO PROUD TO BEG.

Louis then signed as lead singer to international pop band '**WALL STREET CRASH**', resulting in eleven hit albums, number one hits in Italy, and numerous music awards. The group were then invited by Sammy Davis Junior, to support him on stage for his West End shows. Later that year Louis also supported Dean Martin at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London.

Louis never ignored his jazz roots and kept coming back to perform at jazz venues like 'Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club' in Soho, 'Cafe Alto' in Amsterdam and The Blue Note in New York. These were his 'back yards' 'musically' speaking where he felt most 'at home'.

## **1990s**

Louis' childhood dream began to take shape when he was asked to put together his own solo 'SALUTE TO SINATRA' show. In 1997 he toured the U.K. and Ireland and news soon spread like wild fire, that 'this was no Sinatra Impersonator', but a very gifted laid back performer, with a sharp sense of humor, high musical artistry, perfect timing and above all, a unique natural sound. Soon, Louis went on to sell out some of the most famous concert venues in the world including The Royal Albert Hall and London Palladium... six times!

## **2000s**

In 1999, Louis joined UK promoters Flying Music, to put together a brand new show based on the hilarious 'hi jinx' and musical talents of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Junior in their prime. Louis starred as Frank Sinatra from the beginning and the show became the massive cult musical '**The Rat Pack Live From Las Vegas**' playing to packed houses in London's West End for eight years. Louis toured with the show throughout Europe and the USA. To this day, more than 16 million people worldwide have seen The Rat Pack, and the show is still going strong, with a recently completed 14th West End run with Louis again playing the lead role of SINATRA.

## **And This Is Me...**

This is the seminal album for which LH was nominated for a Grammy in the newly introduced 'Traditional Pop' category. Louis has been labelled '..the 'Sinatra of the New Millennium'. And oddly, Louis' His own life is not dissimilar to that of the notorious hell raising Hollywood star. '**Old Frank was a character**

***that's for sure, and Louis is without doubt a very colourful person too!,'* laughs Matt Cogger, Louis tour manager and close friend. 'He's never married, lived in London's Soho village, Amsterdam and the Far East, and has always chosen bohemia over suburbia. Most men would cut their right arm off, just to be glanced at by any of his ex loves'. They're all great people too, and it is a testament to him, that his 'significant ex's' are all still his loyal friends and soul sisters'.**

Aside from his brilliant, critically acclaimed, portrayal of Sinatra in THE RAT PACK show, Louis was signed to **Ronnie Scott's Jazz House** label as an original jazz artist. In his own rite, completely away from THE RAT PACK and SALUTE TO SINATRA shows, Louis has performed with the world's greatest jazz legends; MICHAEL BRECKER, KENNY BARRON, CONTE CANDOLI, HELEN MERRILL, KEN PELOWSKI, GUY BARKER, CLEO LAINE & JOHN DANKWORTH, at international jazz festivals throughout in Europe, Japan and the USA, and writes his own songs. 'Swing with a modern attitude', as the Evening Standard said.

'If he actually has a 'mission' at all, I'd say it is to preserve the legacy of the music Sinatra and Bennett championed, by taking the genre just a step further'.  
***London Evening Standard.***

Louis' album And This Is Me...' combines a contemporary feel with a unique sound, set off by the reflected expertise of Sinatra - Tony Bennett - Bobby Darin and other past masters, backed by an amazing UK orchestra, and as Sinatra himself once said, 'British musicianship is the best in the world'.

## **2010s**

Reprising his lead role as Sinatra in THE RAT PACK at London's Adelphi in 2009/10, Louis then went to Australia, South America, Japan and USA to perform his SALUTE TO SINATRA show.

## **2012 /13**

November: Louis returned from his tour of the Far East, headlining in Singapore at the MARINA BAY THEATRE. Louis also starred on THE PRESIDENTS CHARITY TV GALA to benefit the under privileged children's POCKET MONEY FUND which assists their travel to and from school.

**2014 / 2015**

Together with associate promoter Tony Clayman, Louis has now formed **LONDON INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS** the creative umbrella for the upcoming entertainment productions:

**SINATRA 100**  
**MAD ON MADONNA**  
**THE RAT PACK & CO**  
**SALUTE TO THE LEGENDS**

LIP is also proud to represent the fabulous **SALUT SALON** for the UK & Ireland.

*April 2015 Update - Joanna Forrest - LIP*