

Sinatra tribute is rescheduled for Jan. 16 at Shores Theater

BY BARI AUERBACH

Following sell out shows in the summer, Lawrence Branchetti is coming back to the Shores Theater on Jan. 16 to star in "A Tribute To Frank Sinatra and Friends." The show was originally set for September, but had to be rescheduled due to hurricane Georges.

Performers joining Branchetti will include Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Liza Minnelli sound-alikes plus doubles for Joey Bishop and Peter Lawford.

Branchetti, who really does have blue eyes, lives in Miami Shores and has been performing Sinatra's greatest hits for over 30 years. He recently received the endorsement from the Order of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America to carry on the memory of Frank Sinatra's music.

"When I was growing up, I listened to Frank, Dean and Steve Lawrence," Branchetti said. "My voice has shades of all their styles, but Sinatra is my greatest inspiration. I was always so impressed with the way he carried himself on stage. He could light a cigarette in the middle of a song and never miss a beat."

During the show, Branchetti performs classics like *My Way*, *What Is This Thing Called Love*, *Come Fly With Me* and *For Once In My Life* with such emotion, that audiences have actually been moved to tears.

"An avid fan came up to me and said, 'a piece of me died when Sinatra did, but when I came here tonight and saw you perform, that part of me came back again,'" Branchetti said.

Other numbers highlighting the show include "Liza," played by Lucky Syms, teaming up with Branchetti for a rousing rendition of *New York, New York*. Alden McKay, who plays Dean Martin, and Pat Sapia, a sensational Tony Bennett, also sing and dance to old favorites.



Lawrence Branchetti

Lending even more authenticity to the show, the cast sings to original Sinatra arrangements. From *Those Tables Are Empty* and *I've Got You Under My Skin* to *I've Got the World on a String* and *The Lady Is a Tramp*, the show is a nostalgic journey for many who miss the swing era.

At the end of the show, Branchetti puts on a hat Sinatra supposedly left behind at the theater and as the stage goes dark he says, "Frank, I know you're out there and you've heard this tribute. All of your fans appreciate the glorious years of your music and your memory will live on forever."

Tickets for "A Tribute to Frank Sinatra and Friends" are now available at the Shores Performing Arts Theater. There will be two shows on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and group rates are available. Proceeds will support the theater, located at 9806 NE Second Ave. in Miami Shores. For more information, phone 305-751-0562.