

IMDb Manchurian Candidate Trivia

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0056218/trivia/?item=tr4673061>

Frank Sinatra broke the little finger of his right hand on the desk in the fight sequence with **Henry Silva**. Due to on-going filming commitments, he could not rest or bandage his hand properly, causing the injury to heal incorrectly. It caused him chronic discomfort for the rest of his life.

According to executive producer **Howard W. Koch**, the budget was \$2.2 million. Of that amount, \$1 million went for **Frank Sinatra's** salary, with another \$200,000 for **Laurence Harvey**, leaving only \$1 million for everything else.

By his own admission, **Frank Sinatra's** best work always came in the first take. Writer, producer, and director **John Frankenheimer** always liked the idea of using the freshness of a first take - so nearly all of the key scenes featuring Sinatra are first takes, unless a technical problem prevented them from being used.

Janet Leigh found the role of Eugenie Rose Chaney one of the most difficult she had done because "the character was plunked down in the middle of the script, with no apparent connection to anyone, transmitting non sequiturs while sending meaningful rays through her eyes." But she was proud of her work and credited **Frank Sinatra** and writer, producer, and director **John Frankenheimer** with helping her achieve it. Modern interpretations suggest that Rosie may also have been a double agent, but this idea was never developed in the final version.

The brainwashing sequence was filmed three times in its entirety (the garden club ladies, Corporal Allen Melvin's (James Edwards') viewpoint, and the Communist captors) against three different sets constructed so the camera could turn completely around in each. The parts were then edited together to convey the shifting perspectives.

The topic of this movie was considered politically so highly sensitive, it was censored and prohibited just before its theatrical release in many of the former "Iron Curtain" countries, such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria - and even in neutral countries such as Finland and Sweden. The theatrical premiere for most of those countries was held after the collapse of Soviet Union in 1993.

John Frankenheimer was widely acclaimed for a shot that is slightly out of focus of Major Marco showing the all-Queens deck of cards to Raymond Shaw. Late in life Frankenheimer said in an interview that film critics would often praise him for the brilliant shot as a way of emphasizing Shaw's blurred perspective. He never let out at the time that it was entirely accidental. When he was reviewing the dailies, he realized that the shot had been done slightly out-of-focus, which would normally require another re-shoot. The problem was that Sinatra had a "one take" clause in his contract, as he believed that he always did his best on the first take, and did not think there was any purpose in doing multiple takes. When Frankenheimer went to Sinatra to tell him they needed to shoot it again, he refused, and he had no choice but to use it in the movie. So whenever a critic praised him for this he'd politely thank them, laughing to himself that if they only knew what the real reason was for it being in the movie.

[Angela Lansbury](#) was only three years older than [Laurence Harvey](#), who played her son.

A scene where [Laurence Harvey](#) jumps in Central Park lake was shot on February 12, the coldest day in thirty years. They had to break the foot-thick ice on the lake with a bulldozer before the scene could be shot.

In spite of his reputation, [Frank Sinatra](#) turned out to be, for the most part, a hard worker and pleasant and cooperative on the set. Writer, producer, and director [John Frankenheimer](#) called him "one of the most charming human beings I have ever met." [Janet Leigh](#) was friends with Sinatra before filming began, but still nervous about stories she heard from others who worked with him. She found him to be "a caring, giving actor, willing to

rehearse indefinitely, taking direction, contributing ideas to the whole." Writer and producer [George Axelrod](#) said he was "a dream to work with" and called him "one of the best screen actors in the world...lyrically sensitive...magic." Most people agreed that Sinatra's attitude could be attributed largely to the fact that he had tremendous respect for his director and enthusiasm for the project.

According to writer and producer [George Axelrod](#), [Frank Sinatra](#) had some demands. All of his scenes had to be scheduled up front and shot in fifteen days. Before he left the set, he announced that he would have to see every bit of footage he was in. Writer, producer, and director [John Frankenheimer](#) told him he could see it all except the complex, multi-perspective brainwashing sequence, which had not yet been edited, but Sinatra insisted "in a voice where you felt kneecaps were going to be broken", Axelrod said. To accommodate Sinatra, Axelrod and editor [Ferris Webster](#) went through the shooting script and noted where all the cuts should be, then Webster put it together so Sinatra could see it. According to Axelrod, the sequence as cut for that purpose made it into the finished movie unchanged.

[Joe Adams](#) (Psychiatrist) was the first black actor cast in a part that wasn't specified as a black character.

The two scientific journal articles that Dr. Yen Lo (Khig Dhiegh) mentioned in the opening hypnosis sequence were real studies, and their full citations are: Wells, W.R. (1941) "Experiments in the hypnotic production of crime", *Journal of Psychology*, volume 11, pages 63-102; and Brenman, M. (1942) "Experiments in the hypnotic production of anti-social and self injurious behavior", *Psychiatry*, volume 5, pages 49-61.

Contrary to popular belief, this movie was not pulled from circulation following the 1963 assassination of President [John F. Kennedy](#). It made its American television debut on The CBS Thursday Night Movies in September 1965 (source: *Broadcasting Magazine*), and was repeated on that network later that season. Only when the rights reverted to [Frank Sinatra](#) in 1972 did this movie disappear from view, although even then

turning up for third and fourth network showings on NBC in spring 1974 (source: TV Guide) and summer 1975 (source: Variety). Sinatra's neglect in keeping this movie in distribution gave rise to the legend that it was suppressed because of its alleged role in [Lee Harvey Oswald](#)'s assassination of the 35th President. The legend was further perpetuated when Sinatra, in alliance with MGM/UA, re-released this movie to theaters in 1988.

This movie was completed in only thirty-nine shooting days. United Artists Chief [Arthur Krim](#) initially wanted nothing to do with this movie, calling it "irresponsible and too incendiary." [Frank Sinatra](#) then went to President [John F. Kennedy](#), whose 1960 campaign had benefited from the \$2 million Sinatra had reportedly raised. The Chief Executive had loved the book and was interested in who had been cast as the mother. With Kennedy's blessing, Krim withdrew his objections and United Artists agreed to release this movie. However, after ten years, full release rights reverted back to the production company, M.C. Productions.

Writer, producer, and director [John Frankenheimer](#) and cinematographer [Lionel Lindon](#) chose to use a lot of hand-held cameras to give many scenes their off-balance, disorienting feel.