

Document Citation

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| Title | Anchors aweigh |
| Author(s) | Tom Allen Andrew Sarris Tom Allen Andrew Sarris |
| Source | <i>Village Voice</i> |
| Date | 1987 Jul 07 |
| Type | review |
| Language | English English |
| Pagination | |
| No. of Pages | 1 |
| Subjects | |
| Film Subjects | Anchors aweigh, Sidney, George, 1945 |

George Sidney's **ANCHORS AWAY** (1945), from a screenplay by Isobel Lennart, with Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Kathryn Grayson, is a light-hearted, low-brow forerunner to *On the Town*. War-weary audiences rapturously embraced Kelly and Sinatra as conventional sailors on leave in a pastiche musical comedy that promised good times to come and that identified MGM with the rich life in Beverly Hills and the elegance of the Hollywood Bowl. L. B. Mayer brought Sinatra deeper into the fold at the height of his bobby-soxer idolatry. Bad acting and all, the callow crooner is ingratiating but still not a match for Kelly in his decade of dominance. The dynamic hoofer established himself as the true life of the party, nimbly dancing around the brassy direction of George Sidney and collaborating in such innovations as a duet with an animated Jerry, MGM's house mouse. **Friday, 8 p.m., Channel 5**