

**For Immediate Release**

Tuesday 29 April 2008

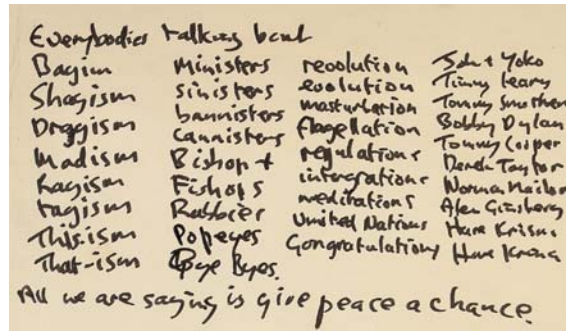
**CHRISTIE'S**

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# **John Lennon's Lyrics From *Give Peace A Chance* To Go Under The Hammer At Christie's South Kensington**



*Lyrics for John Lennon's Give Peace a Chance, from the Montreal Bed-In, 1969*  
Estimate: £200,000-300,000

*John Lennon and Yoko Ono with Gail Renard*

## **Rock and Pop Memorabilia**

**Thursday 10 July, 2pm**

**Christie's South Kensington**

**VIEW BY APPOINTMENT:**

**ON PUBLIC VIEW:**

**Christie's New York**, Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 May

**Christie's South Kensington**, from Saturday 5 July

**South Kensington** – Christie's is to offer John Lennon's lyrics for *Give Peace a Chance* from the legendary Montreal Bed-In of 1969, along with personal photos which have never been seen in public before (estimate: £200,000-300,000). The lyrics and photos are offered from the collection of UK-based comedy writer and presenter Gail Renard and highlight Christie's South Kensington's **Rock and Pop Memorabilia** sale on Thursday 10 July 2008.

Just sixteen and living in Montreal at the time of the Bed-In, Gail and a friend sneaked into the Queen Elizabeth Hotel where John and Yoko were holding their protest for Peace and became friendly with the recently married Lennons. John gave Gail a few mementos at the time, including the lyrics, telling her; "...one day they will be worth something..." and she has had them in her possession ever since.

## **Gail Renard and John Lennon**

Gail Renard was a student at Sir George Williams University in Montreal in 1969, when John Lennon and Yoko Ono came to Montreal to stage their Bed-In. Gail and a friend got into the room where John and Yoko were staying by climbing up the fire escape and waiting for the moment when the security guards outside Suite 1742 changed shifts; it was then that they knocked on the door and asked for an interview for their university magazine. Arriving before the rest of the invited press, they quickly made themselves useful, running errands, playing with Yoko Ono's five-year old daughter Kyoko and

being generally helpful. John and Gail shared a similar sense of humour and got on very well. As a result, Gail spent the rest of the week with John and Yoko at the Bed-In and struck up a life-long friendship with John. In a final act of generosity, John Lennon effectively launched Gail's early career as a writer, by calling the editor of *The Beatles Monthly* Magazine in London and instructing him to publish Gail's review of the Bed-In.

### **The Montreal Bed-In, 1969**

John Lennon and Yoko Ono checked in to Montreal's Queen Elizabeth Hotel at midnight on May 26, 1969. The newlyweds had previously hosted a honeymoon "Bed-In" for peace at the Amsterdam Hilton two months earlier, and building on the phenomenal success of this earlier event they were keen to hold a second Bed-In in New York. However, having been denied access to America, they opted instead to use Montreal, Canada due to its close proximity to the US border. The Bed-In lasted eight days, and throughout the week the couple, along with Yoko, sat up in bed in their nightclothes and opened their doors to the world's media speaking to as many radio and TV journalists and political figures as they could.

The climax and highlight of this event occurred on the final evening when John led the recording of what has been described as the world's most enduring peace anthem and slogan; *Give Peace a Chance*. The recording took 5 minutes and was sung by John and the 50 or so guests in the room that night who included Timothy Leary, Rabbi Geinberg, comedian Tommy Smothers, British singer Petula Clark, US beat poet Allen Ginsberg, British DJ Roger Scott and several members of the Canadian Radha Krishna Temple.

### **Facts and Figures:**

- *Give Peace a Chance* was the first hit single to be recorded by an individual band member whilst still in The Beatles. It reached No. 14 on Billboard's chart, and inspired an entire generation to sing a song of peace. When Lennon witnessed TV footage of nearly half a million anti-Vietnam protestors signing this song outside the White House in November 1969 he considered it to be “..one of the biggest moments of my life...”
- John Lennon and Yoko Ono occupied the corner suite room 1742 at the stately Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal between 26 May to 2 June, 1969. Every year on 8 December, the anniversary of Lennon's death, two dozen roses, half red and half white, are left anonymously by the door of the suite.
- John Lennon and Yoko Ono were married on 20 March 1969 in Gibraltar.
- The first Bed-in for peace took place in room 902, the presidential suite of the Amsterdam Hilton, 25– 31 March 1969.

### **Gail Renard**

Gail Renard is an experienced comedy writer and presenter. In 2002, she won a BAFTA Award for her BBC TV children's comedy drama series, *Custer's Last Stand Up*. Gail started writing professionally at a young age, and after graduating from university in Canada, her writing took her to Britain, where she was mentored by John Cleese. She wrote and performed with Douglas Adams (*Hitchhiker's Guide To The*

*Galaxy*) and together they wrote and performed in a comedy revue, *So You Think You Feel Haddocky*, which played in London's West End Little Theatre. Gail's other TV writing credits include *Get Up, Stand Up* (an award winning Channel 4 adult comedy), *Chucklevision* (BBC TV) and *Your Mother Wouldn't Like It* (ITV, Bafta Award Winning children's' series which Gail wrote along with actor Hugh Grant). Gail has been associated with *The British Comedy Awards* for the past eight years, as both a judge and presenter; and still occasionally performs comedy on television. For four years Gail was part of *The Breakfast Show* on *Talk Radio*, and has also broadcast on *LBC*. Gail is closely associated with the *Writers' Guild of Great Britain*, having been a former Chair, and is currently Chair of its Television Committee.

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Public Viewing Days:**

Saturday 5 July through to Thursday 10 July (for opening hours, please see below)

#### **Public Auction:**

Christie's South Kensington, Thursday 10 July, 2pm  
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD

**Public Enquiries:** 020 7930 6074 / [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

#### **Opening hours at Christie's South Kensington:**

- Monday 9am to 7.30pm
- Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm
- Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm

#### **Christie's New York**

20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020, Tel: +1 212 636 2000

#### **Film and Entertainment Memorabilia at Christie's**

Popular Culture auctions at Christie's feature iconic 20th and 21st century material from the worlds of film, rock and roll, celebrity, entertainment and sport. Christie's has been holding sales in this specialist category since 1985 and to date is the only global auction house to hold sales devoted solely to Rock & Pop Memorabilia. These sales typically include rare concert posters, autographed programmes, hand-written lyrics, instruments and stage clothing relating to the most prominent musicians of the 20th Century including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley, The Doors, Bob Dylan and many others. We hold numerous world auction records in this area including the record price of \$959,500 for a guitar, Eric Clapton's Fender Stratocaster 'Blackie' (2004).