

## For Immediate Release

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## Iconic dress from *Breakfast At Tiffany's* goes under the hammer for charity At Christie's South Kensington



Black dress by Hubert de Givenchy, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* 1961  
Estimate: £50,000-70,000

**Film and Entertainment**  
**Tuesday 5 December, 2pm**  
**Christie's South Kensington**

**South Kensington** – Christie's is proud to announce a rare opportunity to own an iconic piece of cinematic history. Leading this year's **Film and Entertainment** sale at Christie's South Kensington on 5<sup>th</sup> December is a sleek black Givenchy dress made for *Audrey Hepburn* in the much-loved 1961 classic film, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. This infamous dress, which immediately became an example of timeless refinement and elegance, has an estimate of £50,000-70,000 and is being auctioned on behalf of the charity *City of Joy Aid*, which benefits the under-privileged in India.

The dress was personally donated to the current owners, Monsieur and Madame Lapierre by *Hubert de Givenchy*, who designed Audrey Hepburn's wardrobe for the film. The opening sequence became one of the most powerful images from the film, as Hepburn emerged from a cab onto a deserted early morning 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue – a glamorous, gamine figure in an elegant black dress, peering wistfully into the window of *Tiffany's* and eating her breakfast from a brown paper bag. It was this appearance as Holly Golightly that sealed Audrey Hepburn's international fame and the success of the film has been timeless, watched again and again by millions. This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the film, and a special DVD has been released to commemorate it.

**City of Joy Aid's** founders Monsieur and Madame Lapierre will donate the proceeds of the sale to their organisation. Based in Calcutta, City of Joy Aid was set up by the Lapierras in 1981, following a meeting with Mother Theresa. It is dedicated to helping the poorest of the poor through a network of clinics, schools, rehabilitation centres and hospital boats. The Lapierras personally absorb all overhead expenses and, relying totally on donations, have supported the work of over 1,000 social workers, doctors, nurses, physical therapists and educators. They have contributed to the rescue, shelter and rehabilitation of over 4 million patients suffering from tuberculosis, cholera, leprosy and other diseases which exist under the shadow of poverty. It is hoped that the sale of the dress will not only raise public awareness of the charity, but also to realize one of the Lapierras' main priorities; to establish a trust to provide an annual revenue to continue to help them make a big difference to thousands of lives.

**Audrey Hepburn** was born Audrey Kathleen Hepburn-Ruston in Brussels, Belgium on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1929. Daughter of Joseph Hepburn-Ruston, a British Banker and Ella van Heemstra, a Dutch Baroness, she was educated in the UK and trained in dance by the infamous Marie Rambert, who also trained Vaslav Nijinski. She made her stage debut as a chorus girl in 1948, in High Button Shoes at London's Hippodrome. She was awarded an Oscar for "Best Actress in a leading role" for her performance in Roman Holiday in 1953 and it was during this year that she began a lifelong friendship with Hubert de Givenchy. In her later life, she became known for her humanitarian work, becoming Unicef's Goodwill Ambassador in 1988. Following Audrey's death in 1993, The Audrey Hepburn Childrens' Fun in Los Angeles was set up to continue her work.

**Notes to Editors:**

**Public Viewing Days:**

Saturday 2 December through to Tuesday 5 December

**Public Auction:**

Christie's South Kensington, Wednesday 14 December 2004 at 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 – 7.30pm
- Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm
- Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm

Christie's South Kensington is the first international auction house in London to offer regular weekend auctions.

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

In the last two decades, Christie's has sold memorabilia ranging from Bette Davis' Academy Award for *Jezebel* to the sled from *Citizen Kane*. Most recently in June 2005,

Christie's New York auctioned The Personal Property of Marlon Brando which totaled \$2,378,300 and set a new world auction record for any film script with Marlon Brando's working script for *The Godfather*, 1972 which sold for \$312,800. Exceptional prices have included \$666,000 for Dorothy's Ruby Slippers from *The Wizard of Oz* film and \$1,267,500 for Marilyn Monroe's "Happy Birthday Mr. President" Dress. Christie's holds annual entertainment memorabilia sales in South Kensington, London and New York.