

For Immediate Release
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Contact: **Rik Pike** **020.7752.3120** rpik@christies.com

BEATLES STILL REIGN TOP OF THE POPS

Pop Memorabilia
Wednesday 30 April 2003 at 2pm



A life-size standee of Marlene Dietrich used on the Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover, 1967
Estimate: £15,000-20,000

South Kensington – Christie's first Pop Memorabilia sale of 2003 takes place on Wednesday 30 April and features a particularly strong section of Beatles ephemera, with half of the 213-lot sale relating to this incredible foursome. Expected to realize in excess of £250,000, the auction also features a fantastic array of memorabilia relating to some of the world's greatest musical artists, including David Bowie, Bob Marley, Kurt Cobain and Bob Dylan.

Beatles-related material continues to lead the field in the international Pop memorabilia market and this sale provides the perfect opportunity for fans to expand their own collections. The highlight is an autographed life-size standee of Marlene Dietrich used in the famous crowd scene in Peter Blake's design for the Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover in 1967. Signed on the lower half by all four Beatles and by Peter Blake, the standee has a prominent

position on the album cover, being one of only three characters that can be seen in full and is located beside George Harrison. A part of the most famous record sleeve image of all time and an incredible piece of music history, the standee carries an estimate of £15,000–£20,000. Other Beatles highlights include a rare concert programme from The Beatles Show, April 1964 with ‘mop-tops’ cover, signed under each individual printed illustration by all four Beatles and annotated by George Harrison, John Lennon and Paul McCartney with self-portrait caricatures (estimate: £5,000–7,000); a Hey Jude/Revolution 1968 demo single with Trident Studios record label, signed by the Beatles (estimate: £4,000–6,000); and a rare legal document signed by all four band members in 1969 (estimate: £6,000–8,000).

Two guitar lots are set to garner much nostalgic interest. A section of the body of a Fender Stratocaster guitar used on stage by Kurt Cobain at the London Astoria in December 1989 is estimated at £1,000–1,500 and provides a poignant reminder of Kurt Cobain’s blistering assault on the world’s popular music scene. A 1972 Guild F112 acoustic 12-string guitar used by Bob Marley on the Kaya album, 1978 is estimated at £10,000–15,000. Recorded at Island Studios, London, this guitar, formerly belonging to Junior Marvin of the Wailers, was played by Marley on Is This Love? and Time Will Tell. Another intriguing Marley lot is a signed promotional postcard accompanied by a dreadlock – given by Marley to the vendor’s friend at a post-concert party in London during the 1980 Uprising tour (estimate: £800–1,200).

Memorabilia relating to another musical icon, David Bowie, includes a Ziggy Stardust gold disc presented to Bowie’s Manager Tony DeFries in 1974 (estimate: £2,000–3,000), the original cover artwork for the unreleased album Ziggy Live, 1972 (estimate: £2,000–3,000) and Bowie’s 1970 contract with Chrysalis Records (estimate: £2,500–3,500).

Ex-Spice Girl Geri Halliwell was regularly photographed by the paparazzi in the summer of 2000 due to speculation surrounding her friendship with Robbie Williams, and was featured in a story in the Sun newspaper entitled My Throbby sporting a blue and white bikini and riding pillion on the back of Robbie’s scooter. This same bikini was donated to C.L.I.C. (Challenging Childhood Cancer & Leukaemia) by Geri Halliwell and is now being sold to raise funds for the charity (estimate: £400–600). Another pop star never far from tabloid headlines, Michael Jackson, features with a signed pillow case that he threw over a hotel balcony into a throng of fans at the Dorchester, London in May 2000 (estimate: £400–600). A 1968 Lambretta Special X200 scooter owned by Paul Weller is a perfectly iconic lot for this quintessential mod icon. Photographed being ridden by Weller on the inner sleeve of his 1993 album Wild Wood, the scooter will be highly sought after in its own right as only 20,000 were made, and is estimated at £6,000–8,000.

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Images available on request