

## **For Immediate Release**

June 24, 2005

Contact: Rik Pike

212.636.2680

[rpik@christies.com](mailto:rpik@christies.com)

## **SPELLBINDING COLLECTION OF THE LATE GREAT MARLON BRANDO AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK**

*'He gave us our freedom'*  
Jack Nicholson

### **The Personal Property Of Marlon Brando June 30, 2005**

**New York** — Christie's is honored to offer the extraordinary collection of *The Personal Property of Marlon Brando* on June 30, 2005 in New York. The most significant entertainment celebrity estate to come to Christie's since *The Personal Property of Marilyn Monroe* sale in 1999, the auction comprises over 320 lots of stage, screen and personal ephemera and is expected to realize in excess of one million dollars.

Marlon Brando was an extremely private and elusive individual and the sale offers a rare privilege - an intimate insight into the lifestyle and career of a famed screen colossus. The property, being sold by the Estate, has been removed from his Los Angeles home where he resided since 1960 until his death last year.

The collection features memorabilia relating to both his Hollywood and early Broadway career, house contents including furniture, ceramics, pictures and sculpture, and other personal mementos. Brando meticulously retained memorabilia from his acting career and these treasure troves help unravel the methods of his iconic and legendary characterizations - and offer an unsurpassed window into the world of this enigmatic acting genius.

Brando was often referred to as the greatest actor in the world by both his acting peers and the movie-going public and was an enormous influence on subsequent generations of actors, from De Niro to DiCaprio. Upon his death, he was lauded by world leaders, the Hollywood establishment, and mourned by an army of admirers across the globe.

After stunning theater critics with his depiction of Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1947, he left the stage and went on to star in over 40 films. Nominated for eight

Academy Awards, Brando won two Best Actor awards for *On The Waterfront* (1954) and *The Godfather* (1972); and is perhaps best remembered for his depiction of the Godfather in the 1972 Coppola classic.

Film and stage highlights include:

- Annotated script from *The Godfather*, 1972 - handwritten notes offer insight into the methods of creating the character, Don Corleone (estimate: \$10,000-15,000)
- Letter from Mario Puzo to Brando written shortly after the publishing of *The Godfather* – ‘I think you’re the only actor who can play the Godfather’ (estimate: \$800-1,200)
- Academy Award Nomination certificate for *On the Waterfront*, 1954 – this nomination, his fourth, resulted in his first Oscar win (estimate: \$7,000-9,000)
- Acting award for *Truckline Café*, 1946 - Brando’s second Broadway play and first acting award ever (estimate: \$5,000-7,000)
- Scripts from the majority of his films from *Sayonara*, 1957 to *The Score*, 2001 (estimates start from \$800) – some with extensive annotations and handwritten notes
- Black velvet tunic worn in *Superman*, 1978 (estimate: \$4,000-6,000)

Personal property from his Los Angeles home includes:

- Correspondence from co-stars and directors such as Karl Malden, Elia Kazan and Francis Ford Coppola – and letters from Martin Luther King and Jack Kerouac
- A photograph of Brando and Rita Moreno from *The Night Of The Following Day*, 1968 – the only piece of film memorabilia Brando displayed in his home
- Brando’s foosball table, handmade furniture and boxing gloves
- Childhood school year books and summer camp medals
- His DVD and VHS library including *The Godfather*, *On the Waterfront*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* – and a large personal library, with many of the books annotated
- A collection of American Indian artifacts and a fertility sculpture given to Brando by Val Kilmer
- Numerous musical instruments, including bongos, congas and harmonicas

**Auction:** The Personal Property of Marlon Brando June 30, 2005

**Viewing:** Christie’s Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza June 25-29, 2005

###

*Images available on request*

More information about Christie's sale of *The Personal Property of Marlon Brando* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)