

For Immediate Release

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**JAMES GANDOLFINI'S 'TONY SOPRANO' COSTUMES
TOTAL \$187,750 AT CHRISTIE'S POP CULTURE AUCTION**

Proceeds To Benefit Wounded Warrior Project

New York – Today's **Pop Culture** auction at Christie's was highlighted by a collection of costumes from the critically acclaimed and Emmy-award-winning HBO drama series, *The Sopranos*. The 25 costumes worn by James Gandolfini as the series star, Tony Soprano, far surpassed the pre-sale estimate of \$36,500, totaling \$187,750. The proceeds will benefit Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The packed saleroom was buzzing with excitement and all eyes turned to Mr. Gandolfini as he stepped up to the podium next to the auctioneer to greet bidders, along with 1st LT John Fernandez, a Wounded Warrior who lost his legs in Iraq.

James Gandolfini comments, "I would like to thank Christie's for putting this auction together and helping to raise much needed funds for our guys. The 'Wounded Warrior Project' is a wonderful organization and it's an honor to contribute in any way to help them."

"Wounded Warrior Project is profoundly grateful to James Gandolfini and Christie's for their support of our mission to honor and empower wounded soldiers. The donation made from the sale of Mr. Gandolfini's wardrobe as Tony Soprano will directly benefit those that have been wounded. Additionally, the publicity from the sale has greatly assisted us in spreading the word about Wounded Warrior Project and our goal to ensure that this generation of wounded are the most successful and well-adjusted veterans in our nation's history. For both of these reasons, we are deeply thankful," said **John Melia, Founder and Executive Director, Wounded Warrior Project**

The top lot of the grouping was a bloody costume worn in a pivotal scene during "Members Only" (season 6, episode 1), when Uncle Junior shoots Tony in a fit of dementia. It sold for \$43,750 against an estimate of \$2,000-3,000.

Approximately 37 men's costumes from other lead characters in *The Sopranos* sold included costumes worn by characters Junior Soprano, Paulie Walnuts, Christopher Moltisanti, A.J. Soprano, Bobby Balcala, Burt Gervasi, Johnny Sack and others. The total of all 62 Soprano costumes sold for \$227, 931.

About Wounded Warrior Project

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors. WWP seeks to assist those men and women of our armed forces who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world. Many of the injuries are traumatic brain injuries (TBI), amputations and burns that will retire these brave warriors from military service.

From the battlefield to their bedside, WWP is there to meet the needs of our wounded heroes by:

- Raising awareness and enlisting the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women
- Helping them aid and assist each other
- Providing unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs

For more information, please call WWP at 877-TEAM-WWP (832-6997) or 904-296-7350 or visit woundedwarriorproject.org.

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

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More information about Christie's sale of Pop Culture can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

