

For Immediate Release

8 November 2004

Contact: Rhiannon Bevan-John 020.7752.3120

rbevan-john@christies.com

FROM HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS TO STAINES 'MASSIVE' Star-Studded Auction at Christie's South Kensington in December



Charlie Chaplin's cane from *Modern Times*, 1933 (estimate: £8,000-£12,000)



Ali G's gold tracksuit (estimate: £1,000-£1,500)

Film and Entertainment 14 December 2004

South Kensington – Whether glamour and glitz or tramps and Goons, Christie's *Film and Entertainment* sale on 14 December 2004 features an all-star cast. The diverse range of material offered in the auction - from the greatest - James Bond's Moon Buggy from *Diamonds Are Forever* 1971 (estimate: £20,000-£30,000) - to the smallest - Charlie Chaplin's moustache from *The Great Dictator* 1940 (estimate: £3,000-£5,000) will unquestionably set pulses racing.

A significant highlight of the auction is the Maurice Bessy Collection, which is expected to fetch between £60,000 to £90,000. Bessy, a highly respected figure in the film world, was inspired to work in the industry after seeing the 1918 Chaplin film *Shoulder Arms* as a child. During his long and varied career he was editor of French film-weekly *Cinemonde*, Artistic Director of the Cannes Film Festival, writer and historian, and well connected with many key figures including Chaplin himself, Orson

Welles, Erich Von Stroheim, Walt Disney and Jean Cocteau. Among the 50 lots from this important private collection are various Chaplin artefacts, some given to the collector by the artist himself including: a rare prop moustache from Chaplin's famous Tramp costume (estimate: £3,000-£5,000); his cane from the 1933 film *Modern Times* (estimate: £8,000-£12,000); his truncheon from the 1917 hit *Easy Street* and his whistle from the 1931 classic *City Lights* (estimate £1,500-£2,500).

From classic comedians to present day funnymen, the comedy section of the sale is exceptional. One of the most exciting lots offered is a rare collection of seven original Goon Show cast scripts dating from throughout 1956 and 1957 (estimate: £2,000-£4,000). One of the scripts is from a show which was a personal favourite of Spike Milligan's, *The Mighty Wurlitzer*. The script for this memorable Goon episode is also one of those in this collection to have autograph annotations, amendments, caricatures and doodles in the hands of Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe, giving a rare insight into their visual interpretation of Goon characters and surreal scenarios. On a more recent note, from the collection of Ali G's personal designer, Jason Alper, are three lots devoted to the hilariously outrageous and controversial interviewer. These include a rhinestone-studded gold vinyl tracksuit and a custom-made 'gold' metal 'knuckle-duster' "INDAHOUSE" ring worn by Ali G to promote his film *AliG Indabouse*, 2002 (estimate: £1,000-£1,500).

Sensational in its own right is one of the more unusual Bond vehicles to appear on the market, the Moon Buggy from Sean Connery's last appearance as 007 in *Diamonds Are Forever*. At the time in 1971, he was the highest paid actor in history and his record-breaking fee enabled him to set up the Scottish International Educational Trust. The Moon Buggy was designed by Oscar-winning



Credit: 007 Magazine & Archive Limited

production designer Ken Adam and is an instantly recognisable icon of the James Bond films. In addition to its appearance in *Diamonds Are Forever*, it was used as the centrepiece of the worldwide advertising campaign for the film. After a worldwide publicity tour, the Moon Buggy fell into disrepair. It was restored to its original condition by its current owner over a number of years and has been on display in Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas from 1993 to 2003 (estimate £20,000-£30,000).

Sci-Fi fans will delight in a rare Imperial Stormtrooper's helmet that is another of the sale's stellar lots. Believed to be one of only six made for George Lucas as a visual aid to support his final pitch to film company executives to obtain funding for the 1977 *Star Wars* film, this helmet was subsequently kept and used in the film and also in the 1980 film *the Empire Strikes Back*. The current owner bought this particular helmet 12 years ago at a car boot sale in London for £40 and it is now expected to fetch between £5,000 to £7,000.

#

Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

Sale: Christie's South Kensington, Tuesday 14 December 2004 at 2pm

Viewing Times:

- Sunday 12 December 1pm – 4pm
- Monday 13 December 9am - 7.30pm
- Tuesday 14 December 9am - 12 noon

In the last two decades, Christie's has sold memorabilia ranging from Bette Davis' Academy Award for *Jezebel* to the sled from *Citizen Kane*. Exceptional prices have included \$666,000 for Dorothy's Ruby Slippers from *The Wizard of Oz* film and \$1,267,500 Marilyn Monroe's "Happy Birthday Mr. President" Dress. Christie's holds annual entertainment memorabilia sales in South Kensington, London and New York.