

For Immediate Release

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ICONIC ROCK & ROLL GUITARS STAR IN LARGEST POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT SALE EVER

Rock & Roll and Entertainment Memorabilia

December 17, 2004

New York – Christie's, in partnership with Julien's, will hold the largest various owner auction of Rock & Roll and Entertainment Memorabilia ever on Friday December 17 – the sale is expected to realize in the region of \$3 million. With over 400 lots and over 90% of the sale fresh to the market, the auction includes outstanding examples of Rock & Roll and Hollywood memorabilia, from guitars owned by George Harrison and Keith Richards, to an Academy Award from 1941 for Best Picture.

The sale is led by a recently re-discovered Gibson SG guitar, circa 1964 - owned by Beatle George Harrison (estimate upon request). Played by Harrison from 1966-1969, it was used during the *Revolver* recording sessions, used in the two Beatles films *Paperback Writer* and *Rain* and John Lennon played the guitar during the *White Album* sessions in 1969. Harrison then gave the guitar to Pete Ham of Badfinger and upon Pete's death in 1974, the guitar was stored away for 28 years by John Ham, his brother. The guitar was re-discovered when the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame contacted John in preparation for a *Badfinger* retrospective in 2002 – and has been on loan to the Hall of Fame for the past two years.

Another highlight is a Keith Richards guitar, circa 1964-1965 (estimate upon request). Played by Richards during the Rolling Stones' appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, Mick Jagger also played the guitar during the *Beggars Banquet* recording sessions.

Over 70 lots of Beatles memorabilia are featured in the sale. Highlights include John Lennon's Vox guitar organ, 1960s (estimate \$40,000-50,000) and never-heard-before original interview tapes (estimate \$45,000-50,000) between Lennon and a correspondent for *The*

Washington Star Newspaper, recorded in February 1975. Stuart Sutcliffe's art school sketchbook, 1959, (estimate \$3,000-5,000) contains hundreds of drawings and watercolors, and provides an illuminating insight into the 'Fifth Beatle.'

Leading the Hollywood memorabilia portion of the sale is the Academy Award for Best Picture, *How Green Was My Valley* (estimate \$50,000-60,000) - famous as the Oscar that beat *Citizen Kane* in 1941. A group of revised script sheets are offered from Marilyn Monroe's final and unfinished film, *Something's Got to Give*, 1962, (estimate \$20,000-22,000), as are the original contracts for *Ocean's 11*, signed by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr., circa 1960 (estimate \$8,000-10,000). Frank Sinatra's three ringside photographs of Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier document this legendary 1971 boxing fight (estimate \$3,000-5,000) are another enticing sale addition.

A strong selection of modern and contemporary music memorabilia is also featured. The Rolling Stones' Grammy award for *Voodoo Lounge*, 1994 (estimate \$18,000-20,000) was the band's first Grammy for a specific album; Madonna's veil from the *Like a Virgin* video, (estimate \$2,000-2,500) and Prince's shirt worn in *Purple Rain*, (estimate \$4,000-6,000) are both 1984 highlights; and a handwritten letter from Kurt Cobain to Courtney Love, 1991 (estimate \$12,000-14,000) describes his hallucinations on acid and his life on tour.

Childhood paraphernalia include Britney Spears' book report, 1980s (estimate \$800-1,000); a Jimi Hendrix Junior High School Yearbook, 1961 (estimate \$ 1,500-2,000); Buddy Holly's biology test, 1952 (estimate \$600-800); Jim Morrison's crude pencil drawing, created during his teens, 1957, (estimate \$2,000-3,000); and Kurt Cobain's 5th grade class photograph, 1977 (estimate \$1,000-2,000).

And finally, documentation from Rock & Roll's run-ins with the law include; Janis Joplin's mugshot from 1969 (estimate \$2,000-4,000); Cat Stevens' mugshot and fingerprint card, 1981 (estimate \$800-1,200); and Timothy Leary's wanted poster, 1970 (estimate \$600-800).

Auction: Rock & Roll and Entertainment Memorabilia
December 17, 2004 at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center
December 11-16
Highlights on view at Christie's South Kensington, London
November 21-24

More information about Christie's sales of Rock & Roll and Entertainment Memorabilia can be found on www.christies.com. 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.

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*Images available on request
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