

# Monroe dress heads to auction

## Sex symbol had to be sewn into 'Happy Birthday' garment

BY ALEX DOBUZINSKIS  
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — The skin-tight dress Marilyn Monroe wore for her sultry rendition of "Happy Birthday" before then President John F. Kennedy at a 1962 gala will go on sale at an auction in November, the company behind the event said on Wednesday.

Jean Louis designed the dress covered in sequins that Monroe, one of the 20th century's most famous sex symbols, wore when she shed her fur coat in a splashy entrance at Madison Square Garden in New York.

With its color matching her skin tone, the dress, which was so tight that Monroe had to be sewn into it, gave the impression she was nude.

The breathless performance Monroe gave for Kennedy of the song "Happy Birthday to You" at the May 19, 1962, fundraiser for the Democratic Party 10 days before the president's actual birthday is remembered for its sultriness and because it was one of her last public appearances.

The star of the films "Some Like it Hot" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"

died of a drug overdose less than three months later.

Beverly Hills-based Julien's Auctions will offer the dress for sale at an auction on Nov. 17 in Los Angeles, the company said in a statement.

The late fund manager Martin Zweig bought the dress in 1999 for \$1.26 million at a Christie's auction, said Darren Julien, president and chief executive of Julien's Auctions.

Zweig, who saw the dress as an investment, kept it in a climate-controlled display case mounted on a mannequin, Julien said.

His estate is offering the dress for auction and it is expected to sell for at least \$2 million, Julien said.

"It's like the equivalent of a Monet, just because of its historic significance and its connection to one of the most important actresses of our time," Julien said in a phone interview.

Ironically, given her death later that year, actor Peter Lawford jokingly introduced Monroe at the New York event in 1962 as the "late Marilyn Monroe," because she had a reputation for being tardy.

Monroe's song was to mark Kennedy's 45th birthday, which was to occur a



REUTERS

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couple weeks later. The president was assassinated the following year.

The dress is one of many items from Monroe's life

which Julien's Auctions will offer for auction on Nov. 17 through 19. Monroe would have been 90 years old this year.

# Theater

Continued from Page C1

someone's nether regions are not exposed isn't a big jump for her.

"We tend to separate the 'movement stuff' out of the context of the directorial side of things, but in this show, they are not separate," said Bonacasa. "The choreography in the big photo shoot scene is not really any different from a sword fight. It's traffic patterns and knowing where this has to be and that has to be. It probably should have been more stressful for me, but this is really my comfort zone. This is what I love to do."

"Calendar Girls" is a rarity among most plays produced in regional theater. Roles for women of a certain age are far less common than roles for younger performers — and a play composed mostly of women aged 40-plus is even more rare, despite the fact that there are often more women than men in the Bangor region's pool of actors.

"Steel Magnolias" is the only other show I can think of that's been done in the area that's like this one," said Irene Dennis, who will play Marie. She was also in PTC's "Steel Magnolias" production. "Oftentimes, there will be one, maybe two roles in a show that are for middle-aged or older women, and we're all competing against each other for that one part. Here, though, we all get to work together. And that's awesome."

Sharon Zolper, who plays lead character Chris, is returning to the stage after a 13-year break. She teaches at Hampden Academy, and was for a decade the school's drama coach, in addition to being a founding member of Ten Bucks Theatre Company.

"This is my first time back on stage in a very, very long time," said Zolper. "For me it's like a gift to be able to be back, and having the opportunity to work with all these women in various ways, women who I've worked with in various capacities over the years."

Not only is the cast mostly composed of women — almost everything about the production as a whole is driven by women.

"It's a play directed by a

woman, designed primarily by women, acted mostly by women, at a company which has people at the helm that are women," said Jasmine Ireland, who plays Celia. "There's something really, really cool about it being almost completely driven by women. And older women, too."

The climactic scene in the show, in which the women pose for their photographs, will be preserved for posterity, however, as PTC has taken actual photographs of the cast — not entirely nude, mind you, though scantily clad — and will publish in the coming weeks an actual calendar. Fan can purchase the calendar at the show, which benefits both the theater and Sarah's House in Holden, which provides lodging for those who must make long journeys to Cancer Care of Maine in Brewer for treatment.

"As one of the characters says in the show, 'If I don't get them out now, when will I?'" said Dennis.

"Calendar Girls" runs Wednesdays-Sundays, Sept. 8-25, at the Bangor Opera House. Performances are at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, except for Sept. 9, when the show is at 7 p.m. For tickets, call 942-3333, visit the opera house between noon and 5 p.m., or visit penobscottheatre.org.

# Jackie

Continued from Page C1

and prepare her husband's funeral in a way that will make his death meaningful but also allow her to be remembered as more than a fashion icon.

Portman, who won an Oscar for her role in ballet thriller "Black Swan," said portraying someone whose looks, speech and gestures were known to everyone made this the "most danger-

ous" role she had ever played.

The movie re-created parts of a White House tour the first lady gave after renovating the presidential residence, making it easy to draw comparisons between Portman and Kennedy.

"And that's terrifying because I've never thought of myself as a great imitator or anything," the 35-year-old actress said.

"I was just trying to get to something that people could get past and believe that I was Jackie, and then you al-

ways have yourself in there too, inevitably."

A big part of Portman's job was portraying a character always in control of her identity, putting different masks on when in public, with those close to her or when truly alone.

The camera moves from Jackie recording the White House tours with a nervous smile to a first lady alone in her bedroom, sipping on vodka, popping pills and swapping between outfits, all the while listening to a Broadway recording of

"Camelot."

"She's a symbol for all these people, she is a mother, she's a wife, a betrayed wife, she's a person just trying to find her way in the world," Portman said.

"There are so many things she's dealing with."

Larrain said the movie was not trying to deliver all the answers but rather leave something for the audience to digest.

"You don't completely get who she was because it's just not possible, and I found beauty in that fact," he said.

# KISS

Continued from Page C1

said, 'So you guys like KISS?' He was an older guy with an English accent and

he asked if our daughter would like to go on stage and meet the band."

Jenny said both her and her husband were skeptical, until they were brought backstage to the VIP area.

"It was all such a blur," Jenny said. "There was so

much going on, we were all dumbfounded. We couldn't believe a band would ever do something like this."

Gene Simmons, the band's bassist, known for his fire-breathing, blood-spurting persona "the Demon," wished Morgan a

happy birthday during their meet-and-greet session and the family had their photo taken with the band.

"I love KISS because they all have a different theme," Morgan said. "It was a dream come true. I felt like a rock star."

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