



## PRESS INFORMATION

### **PRE-WRITTEN INTERVIEW WITH BILL MACK**

***Film buffs, those intrigued by the goings-on in the film industry and fans of the 'Golden Age of Hollywood' will want to head down to The O2 this Summer for 'The Heart of Hollywood World Tour' - the must-see spectacular Hollywood showcase.***

***The show premieres in London in June 2018 and runs for four weeks. The London dates launch a world tour that will visit 60 cities over the next five years.***

***The world tour is planned so that at the end of the tour it will be 100 years since the sign was first erected and this year is the 40<sup>th</sup> year since it was last seen in public.***

***Fittingly, the centrepiece of the show will be the worldwide symbol of the entertainment industry - the 45-foot high, 95 tons iconic 'H' from the original Hollywood sign. The 'H' stands taller than four London double decker buses. It was on the Hollywood Hills from 1923 until 1978.***

***The exhibition is the brainchild of one of the USA's most celebrated artists, Bill Mack – we talked to him about the inspiration behind the show, his unusual and revered art and why he wears a fresh red rose everyday.***

**So Bill, what can we expect to see in London?**

Not only are we bringing over one of the most iconic and famous symbols of the worldwide entertainment industry – the original 'H' – but also we are showcasing an important collection of Hollywood memorabilia. Artefacts, props, costumes and scripts from some of the greatest films ever made – all of which will debut in London and some of which will probably never see the light of day again when the tour ends.

**Why Bill are you bringing the tour to London first?**

I have always had a soft spot for London. Like Hollywood, London has a long and established history in the film industry. Some of the biggest films in the world have been shot in London and it just made sense to take it to London first as we know demand from people wanting to see the 'H' will be high. We are honoured and over the moon that The O2 has agreed to host the show as the premiere of the world tour.

**I gather you have a fascination with all things Hollywood and that you will be bringing some of your personal items across. What can people expect to see?**

Yes on my ranch I have a cinema complex that is dedicated to my own memorabilia collection. I literally have hundreds of artefacts that were never seen again once filming stopped. It is a great privilege to join forces with the Hollywood Museum to allow people outside of the USA to see some of extraordinary things. By way of a taster, a few of the items you will be able to see include the gates to Marilyn Monroe's house; the chair she did her last photo shoot in and the bed in which she died; Elvis Presley's jumpsuits; John Wayne and Charlie Chaplin's clothing; Clarke Gable's tuxedo from *Gone with the Wind*; Superman's costume; and Michael Jackson's fedora hat. There will be more than 300 priceless items in total.



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### **How did you come to buy the Hollywood sign in 2007?**

I purchased the metal from the original Hollywood sign back in 2007. In 1978, the sign had been deemed irreparable having stood on the hill for 55 years since 1923. It was put into storage and replaced by the sign that stands in Los Angeles today. This project started with me using the parts of the sign as canvas for my collection of the great stars of Hollywood, many of which will be shown in London. At this time I became inspired and determined to restore the 45-foot 'H' from the original sign. We started the restoration back in 2012 and worked with the very best engineers and construction teams to rebuild the 'H'. It was a dream come true when I was granted LA's Certificate of Recognition for my restoration efforts in preserving this iconic symbol of Hollywood history.

### **You will be bringing your own Hollywood art collection to London for the exhibition – what can people expect to see?**

That's right - for the very first time I will be exhibiting a collection in London and I am very excited, if not slightly anxious. The Hollywood art exhibition will include 30 of my original paintings of the stars of the 'Golden Age of Hollywood'. Many of the collection include personal effects from my subjects – in the Marilyn Monroe portrait I have included a strand of her hair and piece of the t-shirt worn by Steve McQueen in The Great Escape in his portrait. I hope to include the likes of Audrey Hepburn, the 'Godfather' Marlin Brando, Grace Kelly and Frank Sinatra in the collection

### **What else can people when they come along?**

It's going to be a great day out. Not only do you get to join the Hollywood greats like Marilyn Monroe who touched the sign as a right of passage; you get to enjoy the very best American food, take selfies with the original 'H' on a special platform with a spectacular backdrop of London, view the art and memorabilia and even buy miniature 'H' statues' and other memorabilia to remind you of this unique experience.

### **What are you looking forward to most?**

Simply to create the number one show business attraction in London this summer. We will be closing the attraction in the evenings to allow parties and events to be held by London's glitterati. I am looking forward to our opening party and seeing my vision finally come to fruition. It's going to be one hell of a party with the great and the good from Hollywood and the UK film industry in attendance. Those lucky enough to get a ticket will see the unveiling ceremony, celebrity appearances, 3D projection, a laser and light show, live music and performance and will join me in making and celebrating history.

### **What will happen to the exhibition when it leaves London?**

After London we will start a five-year long tour visiting 60 cities, allowing the world's population a once in a lifetime opportunity to engage with the iconic Hollywood sign. Following the tour, the 'H' will return home to Los Angeles where it will become a permanent installation in time for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



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**And finally, you are known for wearing a fresh red rose on your label every single day – can I ask why?**

You can but as I have said to journalists all over the world – the actual reason will remain my secret.

***I guess an answer that was to be expected from the man that has single handily changed the very face of contemporary art with his priceless and sticking Hollywood Art Collection.***

## INFORMATION & TICKET SALES

[www.heartofhollywoodtour.com](http://www.heartofhollywoodtour.com) / [www.hollywoodhtour.com](http://www.hollywoodhtour.com)

[www.billmack.com](http://www.billmack.com)

[www.theo2.co.uk](http://www.theo2.co.uk)

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