

《赫本成名前后罕见私人信件将被拍卖》



An unprecedented insight into the private life of Audrey Hepburn has been revealed thanks to the sale of intimate letters written by the screen siren.

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The never-seen-before correspondence from the actress to her mentor Sir Felix Aylmer during her rise to international fame have come to light.

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Hepburn penned the personal notes during the formative years of her life as she went from an unknown actress to one of Hollywood's greatest icons.

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The ten letters were sent by Hepburn to the British actor, her mentor and confidant, between 1951 and 1960.

1951??1960????????????????????????????

They document the star's rollercoaster life and her personal highs and lows, including her first failed engagement.

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Sir Felix helped to kick-start Hepburn's career when he agreed to give her acting and elocution lessons as she tried to establish herself in West End theatre productions.

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The pair formed a relationship that developed into a lifelong friendship, and as her career took off Hepburn wrote letters and sent postcards to Sir Felix from film sets.

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Experts say the notes, which are being sold by Sir Felix's family for the first time, offer a unique window into the life of the notoriously private star.

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The archive includes a 1951 postcard Hepburn sent from the set of Monte Carlo Baby, her first big film, in which she wrote: 'Would you believe it, I'm in Monte Carlo working on a French Picture * this place is heavenly.'



She immediately put pen to paper, writing to Sir Felix: 'It is with a heavy heart I am writing to tell you James Hanson and I are no longer engaged, I know there is little I need explain to you, a gentleman of this profession.'

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Hepburn also wrote to Sir Felix in 1960 when her son Sean was born.

1960????????????????????????????????

She wrote afterwards: 'Sean is truly a dream, and I find it hard to believe he is ours to keep. I long to show him to you.'

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The archive is tipped to fetch £4,000 when it goes under the hammer at London auction house Bonhams.

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The sale also includes an original image, signed by photographer Terry O'Neill, of Hepburn in 1967 lounging in the pool in a yellow bikini, which is expected to reach £2,000.

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