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Private Marilyn – the person behind the concept of Monroe

Unique special exhibition

19 October 2013 – 6 April 2014

In this unique special exhibition, more than 700 original memorabilia and personal items of the extraordinary icon Marilyn Monroe will be displayed in Switzerland for the first time. The exhibition takes a look behind the facade of the glamorous Hollywood film star Marilyn Monroe, who – despite her death some decades ago – still captivates our attention.

Ted Stampfer's private collection is Europe's largest known private Marilyn Monroe collection. A leading authority on Marilyn, Ted Stampfer is one of the few individuals who showcase their collections to the public. Apart from paying tribute to a gifted actress whose unique character and extraordinary presence have made history, the exhibition also aims to draw attention to Marilyn Monroe as a private individual, presenting her personal and less famous side. After all, concealed behind the facade of this frequently quoted sex symbol was an intelligent business woman with clear objectives. Despite her fame, Marilyn Monroe always remained a very grounded person.

Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jeane Mortenson in Los Angeles on 1 June 1926 and christened Norma Jeane Baker. She was raised in various foster families. After a successful career as a model, she signed her first film contract in 1946. In the 1950s, she became Hollywood's biggest star. On 5 August 1962, Marilyn Monroe passed away after an overdose of sleeping pills. It is still not clear whether this was an accident, suicide or homicide.

Introduction to the exhibition

Although dead for over 50 years, the aura of Marilyn Monroe is still acknowledged by young and old all over the world. More than 600 books have already been written about her. Stephen Hawking (1942), the most famous living physicist in the world, has among other things, a poster of Marilyn Monroe hanging in his Cambridge office. Asked about this, he said: "In a parallel universe I would like to marry Marilyn Monroe."

Very few people have succeeded in retaining a presence after their death. What is the fascination with this woman? Was it her incredible charisma in her films? Was it her divine talent to focus on the feelings of the characters she played? Was it her early death under unresolved mysterious circumstances? It's probably a combination of all these things. She inspired musicians and artists. The song by Sir Elton John, "Candle in the Wind", is unforgettable, which he sang, with changed lyrics, in memory of Princess Diana in 1997. Both women died at the age of 36.

Also, Andy Warhol's work known worldwide as "Marilyn Diptych", is a screen print of Marilyn Monroe produced after her death in 1962. The original image was a 1953 press photo taken by Gene Korman for the film "Niagara". Warhol acquired the press photo only a few days after Marilyn Monroe's death.

Marilyn Monroe was not the dumb blonde that her contemporaries often regarded her as. It is believed that she had an IQ of over 168 (100 is considered normal, a value of 150 is considered to be especially gifted).

There were contemporaries such as Norman Mailer, Truman Capote and Arthur Miller, her third husband, who had always recognised how high her intelligence and intellectual curiosity were. She enjoyed reading very much. In her private library there were about 400 books on various subjects such as history, art, philosophy, psychology as well as poetry and by writers such as Albert Camus, James Joyce, Thomas Mann and James Thurber. Her favourite writers were Walt Whitman and John Keats. She also liked to write her own poetry. In the exhibition you can read some of her short poems.

She was a deeply sensitive vulnerable person, but also a complicated woman who tried to gain independence with all her might and yet again became embroiled in dependencies on others. She was a perfectionist and very ambitious. Marilyn was of the opinion, the right side of her face was "her best side". She needed reading glasses, but at the request of the studios, this was not made public. The fact that Marilyn stammered was also kept hidden. Again, a coach at the studio worked with her to reduce it.

She preferred to drink champagne, especially Dom Pérignon 1953, and her favourite perfume was Chanel No. 5. Her tastes in food were much simpler. She loved hamburgers, steaks with baked potatoes, lamb chops and, after meeting Joe DiMaggio, developed a liking for pasta. Her beauty tips were also rather simple in nature. In her early career she washed her face at least 15 times per day and allegedly used Nivea cream. Years later, she made advertisements for the Erno Laszlo Institute in New York, a luxury beauty institute for celebrities and the rich.

A detailed booklet, with interesting and unique background information covering each exhibit, is available for visitors. See a life size Marilyn Monroe on a large screen in the world-famous white-dress scene over the subway vent from the movie "The Seven Year Itch". This scene was originally shot in Manhattan at the intersection of Lexington Avenue/52nd Street, specifically on Wednesday, 15 September 1954, at 1:00 o'clock at night. It was hoped that at that time there would be no unwelcome spectators. But then, in reality, about 5,000 fans turned up and clapped and cheered every time Marilyn played the scene. It had to be repeated over and over; so often that her then husband, DiMaggio, got angrier and angrier due to the permissiveness of the scene. This, and other conflict between the two of them, subsequently resulted in their separation.

Since, due to the noise, the shot scenes could not be used, director Billy Wilder decided to retake the scene in the studio. After 40 repetitions, the scene was finally in the can.

The complete film, "Some Like It Hot", can also be seen and enjoyed at the exhibition. The film by Billy Wilder is considered the best comedy of all time. It was created in 1959 with Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in the leading roles. In this film she sings one of her most famous songs: "I Wanna Be Loved by You".

Foreword by the collection owner and lender, Ted Stampfer

"There has been much written about Marilyn Monroe, and more is to be composed for decades to come. There have been countless biographies and reports written in search of the truth, finally an image of a woman remains, which today makes her seem even more puzzling to us. But what is really the truth and what is fiction?"

I believe that no one can now say with absolute certainty what is really true of it. However, alongside Marilyn's cinematic and photographic legacy, we are also left with her personal material possessions – of that, there is no doubt. In 1962 they were packaged and stored, protected and unaffected by change as if they had remained in a time capsule for the following four decades. When they began to be auctioned in the late 1990s, these unique pieces granted us a look at her life. They allow us, today, to get closer to Marilyn Monroe and her true identity; a truth that has survived!"

Norma Jeane Baker (1926–1943)

Norma Jeane Mortenson, according to her birth certificate, was born on 1 June 1926 in the General Hospital in Los Angeles, she was later known by her stage name, Marilyn Monroe. In her church christening on 6 December 1926 her grandmother, Della Mae Monroe née Hogan, entered the name of Norma Jeane Baker, which was the family name of Norma Jeane's mother's first husband. So they tried to conceal the illegitimacy of the child.

Norma Jeane Baker was the unwanted child of the film editor Gladys Pearl Baker née Monroe. Her supervisor Charles Stanley Gifford was probably the child's father. When he learned of his lover's pregnancy he left her. Marilyn Monroe was always convinced that Gifford was her real father, although he had never acknowledged this.

At the time of Norma Jeane's birth her mother was married to the missionary and preacher Martin Edward Mortenson, but had lived apart from him for some time. She had two children from her first marriage to John Baker. Norma Jeane's half-siblings, Robert and Berniece, lived with their father since the divorce.

The working mother gave her daughter to religious foster parents Albert and Ida Bolender Wayne for some money for food. Norma Jeane stayed there and was well cared for in the first years of her life. The Bolenders had several foster children in their care. Norma Jeane did not initially know who the red-haired lady was, who came to visit her from time to time. It was her mother, Gladys.

When Norma Jeane was seven a neighbour shot her dog, Tippy. This sensitive girl could not get over this loss and her foster parents had to call her mother for help. The mother, in the meantime, had been able to buy a small bungalow, and was able to look after Norma Jeane again. A little later, however, Gladys suffered a nervous breakdown after the suicide of her grandfather and became mentally ill. In 1934, she had to be hospitalised.

Norma Jeane became a ward of the state. From the age of eight she spent time with various foster parents. Eventually Grace McKee, her mother's best friend, looked after her. Grace loved movies and took little Norma Jeane to see them. This awakened in her an enthusiasm for film. When her foster mother married early in 1935, Norma Jeane had to spend 22 months in a Los Angeles orphanage. All her life, this period remained a harrowing memory for Norma Jeane. In 1936, Grace became the child's guardian, and brought the child back to her home in 1937. After her drunken

husband was unpleasant to the girl, Grace gave her to Ida Martin, a distant relative of Norma Jeane. There she was sexually harassed by her 13 year old cousin, and so the girl finally in 1938 ended up with Ana Lower, a relatively prosperous, warm-hearted mature widow. In "Aunt Ana" Norma Jeane found support and confidence. Later she said: "Ana was the only person who made me understand the meaning of love."

Norma Jeane attended high school in 1939. In most subjects, her results were average. But she showed talent in journalism classes. She wrote humorous articles for the school newspaper. It is noteworthy that one of her articles covered the interesting subject that men prefer blondes. She was very shy as a young girl and began to stutter when she had to speak to her classmates. At 13, Norma Jeane was a beauty with her long, curly brunette hair. She was very popular with the boys at the school.

As Ana Lower got older her health deteriorated and Norma Jeane spent time with the Goddards. Eleanor "Bebe" Goddard was the same age as her and they became good friends.

In 1942, Doc Goddard decided for business reasons to take Grace and Eleanor to West Virginia. Norma Jeane, however, could not go. In the meantime she had become friends with an older neighbour, James (Jim) Dougherty, who was five years older than her. Grace arranged the young couple's marriage with Jim's mother. Statutory regulations concerning married minors forced Norma Jeane to leave high school once again. She was denied a college degree by this.

The actress and the greatest American sex symbol

Start of her photo modelling career (1944–1947)

Marilyn Monroe is one of the most famous faces in the film business. She is unsurpassed for all time as an American sex symbol. She started her career in 1945 when she was discovered as a photo model.

In 1944, Norma Jeane Dougherty worked in the assembly line of a weapons factory, where she sprayed airplane parts with fire retardant. The former captain of the First Motion Picture Unit, known as Celluloid Commandos, Ronald Reagan (later 40th U.S. President) instructed the Army photographer, David Conover, to take seductive pictures of attractive women on the assembly line, who supported the war effort with their work. Such pictures had already achieved cult status under the title "Rosie the Riveter".

The first photos of Marilyn were published in mid-1945 in the U.S. Army magazine, "Yank, the Army Weekly". The photographer, Conover, saw Marilyn's potential and advised her to apply to "The Blue Book Modeling Agency" in Hollywood. The agency prepared young women for a career in modelling or movies. On an index card the following data was recorded for Norma Jeane: Weight 53.5 kg; figure 91-61-86; clothing size 38, height 1.66 m, hair colour dark blonde (note of agency: too curly, bleach and perm her hair, perfect teeth), blue eyes.

Marilyn followed this advice and completed professional training with the agency emerging as a model and mannequin. On the advice of the agency, she bleached and smoothed her curly brunette hair becoming a blonde for the first time to advertise shampoo. In the course of her career Marilyn tried nine different shades of blonde before opting for platinum blonde.

One of her first photographers was André de Dienes. Norma Jeane took a photo tour of California, Nevada and Washington. She quickly became one of the most photographed models of the agency. Already in 1946, her picture first appeared on the cover of a national magazine. From 1947 Marilyn had already been seen worldwide on numerous magazine covers.

The beginning of her film career (1946–1947)

On 19 July 1946, Marilyn did her first screen test at 20th Century Fox. At the instigation of her agency, she got a job interview with the talent scout Ben Lyon. Shortly thereafter, she received the approval of Vice President and Head of Production, Darryl F. Zanuck, and a half-year contract as young actress. Under the contract Marilyn received USD 75 a week, regardless of whether she worked or not. The contract was later extended for another six months and the payments were increased to USD 125 a week.

Together with Ben Lyon, Marilyn chose the stage name Marilyn Monroe. She liked the sound of the double "M's". The name originated from the combination of the first name of the dancer, Marilyn Miller, and her mother's birth name, Monroe.

Marilyn Monroe was created, but she only officially changed her name from Norma Jeane Mortenson to Marilyn Monroe on 23 February 1956.

She went to the studio every day, taking courses in singing and dancing and learning as much she could. She was first used in 1947 as an extra in the musical comedy "The Shocking Miss Pilgrim". She had two small roles as an extra in films made by the studio. Both films weren't beneficial for Marilyn's career or for the studio and weren't financially successful and after one year her contract was not renewed.

At the beginning of 1947, the studio had been sent several young actors for development at the Actors Laboratory. Marilyn was able to continue working there. She studied scenes, learned about social and political issues and got to know the serious art of acting. She also made contact with experienced stage actors from New York.

Rising popularity and first leading role (1948–1952)

In March 1948, as a result of the mediation of Joe Schenck, the chairman of Fox, Marilyn Monroe received a six-month contract with Columbia Pictures. The studio bosses imposed conditions that she had to bleach her hair and remove her sharp hairline with electrolysis. She also had to correct a slight overbite and have her teeth whitened.

In the summer, she got her first major role in the musical film "Ladies of the Chorus". In this B-movie she showed she could also sing for the first time. Johnny Hyde, her new agent, and the influential vice-president of William Morris Agency prompted her to have a slight bump of cartilage removed from her nose. Therefore, after 1949, Marilyn looked slightly different in her films.

Marilyn's popularity grew, and in 1950 Hyde got her a small appearance as a dancer and singer in a B-movie called "A Ticket to Tomahawk". She was in the film "The Asphalt Jungle", directed by John Huston, which was her first major role in a major production. As Angela Phinlay she played the lover of an older, fraudulent lawyer. At that time in her life Marilyn Monroe considered the role to be one of her best.

In October 1950, she signed a seven-year contract with 20th Century Fox. Although it was an oppressive contract, which was connected in some way to the star system which imposed

conditions on the actors, she now had a regular income for the first time. In spite of rather weak performances in films, her on-screen presence had not gone unnoticed by other studios. They began to promote Marilyn and she was eventually loaned to RKO Pictures for a movie. Upon completion of filming there was a global sex scandal involving Marilyn. In 1953, a calendar sheet showed a nude photograph of Marilyn Monroe. The photograph, however, was created in 1949 and showed Monroe naked on red sand. With her quick-witted responses to probing questions from a reporter she rescued her recently launched career. Again, at 20th Century Fox, she got her first starring role in "Don't Bother to Knock" as a psychopathic nanny. For Marilyn, she had one of her best character roles of her film career in this film. More serious role offers were made, however, for the studios she was more or less typecast as a naive, sexy blonde. In addition to her beauty she also impressed with her comedic talent and this led to "The Photoplay Award", awarded to her as the biggest crowd pleaser.

Film career at its peak (from 1953)

Her fame started in 1953 with an equally dramatic and sexy role in the thriller "Niagara". It was a milestone in her career and definitely made Marilyn Monroe an international movie star.

However, afterwards, she received, almost exclusively, offers of blonde bimbo roles in shallow comedies. Thus, although that she was indeed famous and received more awards, she felt unchallenged and never taken seriously for the rest of her life.

In the 1953 musical film, "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", Marilyn sings one of her most famous songs, "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend".

Marilyn played alongside Lauren Bacall and Betty Grable in the comedy "How to Marry a Millionaire", in the first Cinemascope film production.

In December 1953, Marilyn Monroe signed a contract for a concert tour in war-torn South Korea. In February 1954 she sang for the soldiers of the allied U.S. forces. The short tour was a great success. In two days she appeared at ten events and sang in front of sixty to a hundred thousand soldiers. Despite the icy weather, she appeared in a light evening dress, which is why she fell ill with pneumonia after the tour.

In 1954, "River of No Return" was released in cinemas. It is the only classic western in which Marilyn played a major role. In the years 1953 and 1954 Monroe became the biggest financial earner for 20th Century Fox. In 1953, Marilyn signed a contract with RCA Records which, unlike her 1950 contract with 20th Century Fox, allowed her to release, under her own name, vocal recordings from the films "River of No Return" and "There's No Business Like Show Business" on record, single and EP internationally, separate from the film soundtracks.

More demanding roles (1955–1958)

At the end of 1954, Marilyn Monroe moved to New York. She attended classes at the Actors Studio and learned "method acting". The acting teacher, Lee Strasberg, became her mentor and a friendship developed with Lee and his wife Paula.

In 1953, there were discussions with 20th Century Fox. Monroe asked for more demanding roles and rejected several film scripts. In 1954, they compromised. For her performance in "There's No Business Like Show Business", she received the lead role in the film "The Seven Year Itch" directed

by Billy Wilder. The film was one of her greatest successes. The scene where her dress is blown up over a New York subway shaft is unforgettable.

At the end of December 1954, Marilyn Monroe and Milton H. Greene founded her production company, Marilyn Monroe Productions, Inc., since Marilyn saw no future for herself at Fox Studios and other studios. Monroe held 51 per cent and Greene 49 per cent. At that time, Monroe was only the third female actress under contract in Hollywood to have founded her own production company. A scandal arose when Marilyn Monroe Productions sued the movie studio, 20th Century Fox, for breach of contract. Fox had not paid her fee for "The Seven Year Itch" in spite of repeated reminders. They finally came to a settlement and she subsequently received her fee. Both parties, with mutual agreement, terminated her seven-year contract and were able to draw up a new agreement.

In the same year, Marilyn shot the film "Bus Stop" under the new contractual terms and got a say in the selection of script and director. In the film Marilyn was so convincing in her role that she received her first Golden Globe nomination in the Best Actress category.

In 1956 "Bus Stop" was followed by filming "The Prince and the Showgirl", in London. This was Marilyn Monroe's 26th film and was the one and only one that was produced by her own film company. The different acting methods of Marilyn Monroe and her co-star Sir Laurence Olivier led to serious tensions on the set and halfway through filming her psychoanalyst, Dr. Margaret Hohenberg, had to travel to London to help her patient, Marilyn. Nevertheless, the film was shot without budget overruns and Marilyn was awarded two international film awards, the David di Donatello (Italy) and the Étoile de Cristal (France) for her role. In this film her acting was again one of her best.

"Some Like It Hot": the most successful comedy (1959)

After Monroe had not made a film for more than two years she was again in front of the camera and co-starred in 1958 with Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in the Billy Wilder comedy "Some Like It Hot". In this film she sings one of her most famous songs: "I Wanna Be Loved by You". At the exhibition you can enjoy a full-length showing of this movie.

At that time, one could already see the first effects of Marilyn's alcohol and drug consumption. At this time, some scenes had to be repeated countless times not only because of her well-known perfectionism and ambition on set, but because she often forgot her lines and kept arriving hours late on set. This extended filming by 18 days and also drove production costs up. The film was still the blockbuster of the year and is now a classic. It is considered to be the best comedy movie of all time.

Character role and last film (1961–1962)

After her unsuccessful film, "Let's Make Love", in which a vocally brilliant Marilyn Monroe co-starred with Yves Montand, in 1961 she starred in her last completed film, "The Misfits". In the "The Misfits" directed by John Huston she co-starred with Clark Gable. This film heralded the long-awaited shift to character roles. The script was written by Arthur Miller, the screenwriter and her third husband, and the role of Roslyn was specifically written for Marilyn. However, the role was too close and representative of Marilyn herself, and this and other problems on set led to the failure of the marriage to Arthur Miller.

Her last, unfinished film "Something's Got to Give" was a comedy again. The shooting dragged on endlessly, as Marilyn repeatedly fell ill. She was ill on the first day of shooting, 23 April 1962. She appeared for a total of only 17 of 30 days of shooting. The cost of the film increased disproportionately, which was a problem for Fox, as the cost of the movie "Cleopatra" had also increased excessively, which almost led to the financial ruin of 20th Century Fox Studios.

During shooting in May, Marilyn made her legendary appearance at the birthday celebration of President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden, where she sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President".

Since she had appeared in New York apparently without the approval of Fox and while on sick leave, she was fired. Only years later documents were found showing that the trip had been approved by the studio. After negotiations with new management at the studio at the end of July, filming should be continued under better conditions for Marilyn, but the film never resumed due to Marilyn Monroe's death.

The marriages of Marilyn Monroe

On 19 June 1942, two and a half weeks after her sixteenth birthday, Norma Jeane married her childhood friend (James Dougherty). The marriage was arranged by Grace McKee, Marilyn's foster mother, and James' (Jim's) mother. Thus Marilyn did not need to return to the orphanage or to her foster parents. But, the regulations concerning married minors forced her to again leave University High School in West Los Angeles, which she had recently attended. That denied her a college degree.

At the end of 1943 Jim went with merchant navy to Catalina Island. In the spring of 1944 he was posted to the Pacific. At this time Norma Jeane moved in with her mother-in-law, Ethel Dougherty. She got Marilyn a job at the Radio Plane Munitions Factory.

During Jim's absence Norma Jeane got to know the photographer, David Conover, and her modelling career began. When Jim came back from the war around Christmas 1945, the marriage had failed. On 13 September 1946, in Las Vegas, the marriage between Norma Jeane and Jim Dougherty ended in divorce by mutual consent.

On 14 January 1954, Marilyn Monroe married baseball star Joe DiMaggio. The Catholic marriage only lasted nine months. Marilyn met DiMaggio on a blind date in 1952, it was arranged during the shooting of the film "Monkey Business". Later she said that she did not want to meet him because she assumed that he would be wearing brightly coloured ties and would have muscles like a bodybuilder. The marriage of the prominent personalities was always a main focus for the tabloid press. DiMaggio, who had retired from active baseball, wanted a housewife. However, Monroe was at the peak of her career. When Marilyn described how she had been admired by her husband, he replied bitterly that he could still remember that feeling. He could not accept that his career was over and that his wife was in the spotlight. He spent a lot of time watching television, which again bored Marilyn. DiMaggio got a fit of jealousy in front of hundreds of spectators during filming of the famous scene over the subway shaft where Marilyn's dress was blown up again and again in the movie "The Seven Year Itch". On 31 October 1954, the couple divorced because of mutual mental cruelty.

From the spring of 1961, however, Monroe and DiMaggio again developed a warm relationship and may have made marriage plans as a white dress was ordered from the famous designer, Jean Louis. After Marilyn's death, for twenty years, three times a week, DiMaggio delivered a bouquet of red roses to her grave wall.

On 29 June 1956, Marilyn Monroe and the famous playwright, Arthur Miller, were married in a civil wedding in New York. Marilyn Monroe adopted Judaism for the sake of her husband.

The two had met in 1951 while filming the movie "As Young as You Feel". Monroe saw in Miller a protector and father figure. Finally she had a family in which she could take care of Miller's children from his first marriage. Both were happy and Miller's love gave her a sense of security and recognition.

The couple also wanted to have children. Marilyn imagined being a housewife, but only for him. The marriage was overshadowed by three miscarriages.

Marilyn stood by her husband with diplomacy as in 1957 he was denounced as Communist sympathiser.

Miller wrote the screenplay for the film "The Misfits" from one of his own short stories, specifically for his wife. The difficult filming was also the beginning of the end of their marriage. Miller despaired at her use of pills. Marilyn had read in Miller's diary about how he described her as an "erratic, helpless child woman" for which he could only feel sorrow. After numerous matrimonial disputes, the couple got divorced on 20 January 1961. Arthur Miller kept the country house and Marilyn got the apartment in New York City.

Monroe and the Kennedys

Even before his presidency John F. Kennedy cultivated countless volatile sex affairs, which he openly continued in the White House. His team of advisors managed to keep these secret from the public. Some of the media dared not report on the habits of the President because of his popularity, others turned a sympathetic blind eye to JFK, their favourite.

After Kennedy had won the nominating convention of the Democratic Party in September 1960, he invited a bevy of celebrities to the victory celebration in Los Angeles, and these included Marilyn Monroe. Subsequently, there were rumours that the future president and the movie star had bathed naked together, late at night, in the Pacific Ocean. It is rather unlikely that Marilyn would have accepted such an invitation as she was shooting her film "The Misfits" with her husband, Arthur Miller, from July to October 1960 in Nevada.

Most experts agree that their first meeting was in October 1961, at the invitation of Peter Lawford's wife, Patricia.

From October 1961, JFK and Marilyn met in a beach house in Santa Monica on Palisades Beach Road. The house belonged to Kennedy's brother-in-law, the British actor, Peter Lawford.

Early in 1962 they met at a party in honour of John F. Kennedy in New York.

At the end of March 1962, they met at Palm Springs in a house that once belonged to actor Bing Crosby. On that occasion, Marilyn promised the President she would sing at his birthday celebration. At the time Kennedy was unaware of how suggestive the performance would be.

On 19 May 1962 during the 45th birthday gala of President John F. Kennedy before about 15,000 invited guests she breathed with lascivious voice, "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" into the

microphone. She wore a stunning, flesh-coloured dress, embroidered with 2,500 rhinestones by Jean Louis. The dress was so tight that Marilyn had to be sewn into it. This appearance with an almost transparent dress and the corresponding vocal performance further fed the rumours about her alleged affair with Kennedy. The unforgettable dress was sold decades later for the record price of USD 1,267,500 and was until 2012 the most expensive piece of clothing in the world. In the summer of 2012 her famous pleated dress from the underground shaft scene in the film, "The Seven Year Itch", was auctioned in the end at a cost USD 4.6 million, plus auction commission.

Kennedy is supposed to have become annoyed about the alleged scandal. He was accustomed to change his sex partners like shirts. Marilyn Monroe once said: "The men who least satisfy a woman are those who pride themselves on giving their manhood so much sex and operate as if it were a kind of sport where they can win prizes."

Kennedy's brother, the acting Minister of Justice had to gently tell Marilyn that the affair with the President was over. But it was no secret that Robert was very fond of Marilyn.

At the end of June 1962 Robert travelled to Brentwood to talk to Marilyn. After that they met several more times and made numerous phone calls on Kennedy's official telephones. This gave new impetus to rumours.

Due to the upcoming re-election in 1963, the two Kennedys began to worry about their image as loyal husbands and family men. Following Monroe's death speculation and rumours began, that, if he was not getting a divorce, she would have threatened to make the affair with the President public at a press conference. She would have also revealed a mysterious red diary in which she is said to have kept intimate details of the Kennedys, this diary has remained untraceable to this day. What is reasonably assured is that Peter Lawford and Robert Kennedy visited Marilyn in her home one day before her death. No one knows what was discussed there. What is confirmed, however, is that she again phoned Kennedy's brother-in-law, Peter Lawford, on the evening shortly before her death and declined an invitation to dine with him and his wife Patricia that same evening.

Monroe and the FBI

The stake-out by the FBI began in August 1955, when Marilyn Monroe made an application for a visa at the Soviet Embassy. Today this can be read on the FBI website. The document on Marilyn Monroe consists of over 31 pages and was kept secret for over 50 years.

The file documents up to the time shortly before the actress's death. The remarkable thing is that it is incomplete. According to the FBI the rest were lost during transport.

The death of Marilyn Monroe

Marilyn Monroe died on the night of 4 to 5 August from a drug poisoning. The official statement from the coroner for Marilyn's death was "probable suicide", supported next by the autopsy results and statements from the housekeeper, Eunice Murray, and her analyst, Dr. Ralph Greenon. The autopsy was performed by the physician Thomas Noguchi.

This is not implausible as it first seems. In her extensive 1954 autobiography, which she dictated to the journalist Ben Hecht, Marilyn Monroe said: "Yes, it was very special to me, and I also knew that I was one of those kind of girls you find dead in a bedroom, with an empty box of sleeping pills in her hand."

Nevertheless, since Marilyn's death there were rampant conspiracy theories about the true cause of her death that could not be answered unequivocally. There is at least now agreement that all the statements from persons present on the night were inconsistent and suggest a cover-up. Also police officers arriving at the scene had immediate doubts about the suicide theory.

The official immediate cause of death was adjusted to being the ingestion of two medications, namely the drug Pentobarbital Nembutal, which is a powerful sleeping draught, and the similar acting, less potent chloral hydrate.

Several neighbours reported that Marilyn Monroe in the late evening of 4 August at about 22 o'clock had received one or more male visitors, whose identity is not known to this day.

Whether it had been a suicide, an accident or a murder by drugs, could not be clearly established. But despite all the inconsistencies on the day of her death, Marilyn Monroe was buried as a suicide victim.

Marilyn's death led to many rumours and media sensationalism and over the following decades stimulated the imagination of many authors. Some claimed on talk shows and in writing to have been witness to her murder. When in 1982 the prosecution eventually resumed the case with a judicial inquiry to investigate the circumstances of death of Marilyn Monroe, none of these self-appointed witnesses were willing to testify on oath, which eventually led to the termination of the investigation.

When Joe DiMaggio learned of Marilyn's death, he organized Marilyn's funeral with Marilyn's sister, Berniece Miracle, and her manager, Inez Melson. On 8 August 1962, Marilyn dressed in a green Pucci dress and lying in a bronze coffin was buried in the Westwood Memorial Park Cemetery in Los Angeles, attended by a small circle of family and friends. Friends in the film industry were completely excluded at the request of Joe, because he held them, at least, morally responsible for her death.

For Joe, Marilyn had been the love of his life and he had never really coped with her death. He had, for twenty years, delivered three times a week a bouquet of red roses to Marilyn's grave wall. When Joe died of lung cancer in 1999 at the age of 86 years, his last words were: "I'll finally get to see Marilyn."

Was Marilyn Monroe a classic candidate for suicide?

There are many indications, however, that Marilyn Monroe was a classic candidate for suicide. Three months earlier, she had made an unforgettable performance at New York's Madison Square Garden.

On 19 May 1962, during the 45th birthday gala for President John F. Kennedy, before about 15,000 invited guests, she breathed into the microphone and lasciviously sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President".

At that time, she was working under the direction of George Cukor on the film "Something's Got to Give", which was to be her comeback. Her partner Dean Martin had been assured in his contract of her participation. Among the backers, a rumour was spread that she was a wreck and fully pumped with drugs, tottering and unable to remember her lines. Director Cukor fired her on 7 July 1962, because of her constant absence.

However, this was refuted in 1988, when a showing in Hollywood took place from the 20th Century Fox film company archives for 170 cinema fans. Prior to the showing, the recording of her last, unfinished film previously held under lock and key, from May 1962 was shown. In this Marilyn Monroe looked dazzling and dewy. In her only nude scene ever, one could admire her flawless body and also her professional acting performance. She had prepared intensively for her role and by training had even lost twelve kilograms.

Five weeks before her death she said at a session for the magazine "Cosmopolitan" with the photographer, George Barris: "What concerns me is that now is the happiest time. There is a future and I cannot wait."

According to the police report on the night of 4 to 5 August, Monroe made numerous phone calls, on and off, from her telephone. Whether she tried to reach the White House or the Justice Department is unclear. The suicide theory is on shaky ground anyway.

Marilyn's colleague, Marlon Brando, rightly asked: "How can a woman kill herself with so much success, fame, youth, money and beauty? No one can understand it."

For years she had resorted to stimulants and sedatives, which was common in Hollywood's acting circles. She was negligent in taking her prescribed medications at the right time and blindly trusted her doctors. Ten days before her death, on 25 July, Marilyn Monroe was given a prescription from her psychiatrist, advising against the strong effect of Nembutal and saying she should take instead the gentler sleep aid, chloral hydrate. But her internist still prescribed Nembutal, which she received up to 3 August 1962. Both drugs are toxic and block the nervous system and vital functions. The agents also degrade very slowly in the blood, which meant that Marilyn's health had already been threatened for several days. Today, many experts agree that insidious drug poisoning finally led to shock, coma and respiratory arrest. Finally however, the circumstances of her death may probably never be known.

Generally Marilyn led a restless nomadic lifestyle. Only a few months before her death, she acquired her first home for USD 77,500 in Brentwood, California, 12305 Fifth Helena Drive in Los Angeles.

At the age of 36, after three failed marriages and three miscarriages and taking pills and alcohol, Marilyn Monroe wrote: "I wanted to be me and not only a vibrant freak to bring a fortune for the sex dealers in the film company. In Hollywood, it pays you 1,000 dollars for a kiss and 50 cents for your soul. The virtue of a girl here is far less important than her hairdo."

Although she was the most famous actress of the 1950s, she was not the best-paid. Actresses like Barbara Stanwyck or Elizabeth Taylor earned more. Marilyn Monroe was an award winner and in her career won three Golden Globes. She was awarded eight other awards and six nominations. On 8 February 1969 she received a star on the Walk of Fame, 6778 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles.

Collection owner and lender, Ted Stampfer

Ted Stampfer is a private German expert, collector, lender and curator of original memorabilia and personal material legacies of American acting legends Marilyn Monroe and Rock Hudson.

At the age of ten he developed an interest in the Hollywood icon Monroe. Initially more interested in her films, from the early 1990s, he focused on the individual, the myth, as well as her time in New York.

Inspired by the first and most famous of the private Monroe estate auctions by Christie's in New York, Ted Stampfer is especially dedicated to the collection of personal pieces from the life of the movie star. The acquisitions are always from prestigious auction houses, movie studio archives and reputable private collections.

Meanwhile, Ted Stampfer's collection is divided into five different areas: clothing, accessories, exhibits from collaborations, original vintage photographs from studio and press archives as well as documents and film props. The main focus is on Marilyn Monroe's most successful film, "Some Like It Hot", with more than 220 individual pieces which mainly originate from the personal archive of producer Billy Wilder.

In addition to the Monroe memorabilia collections, Ted Stampfer has other items, such as personal items from the estate of American actor Rock Hudson. Because of meetings in their lifetime between the two Hollywood stars, he makes this a combined presentation. With over 700 individual exhibits it is currently the world's largest collection of its kind.

Both the volume of the collection as well as a continuing global interest in Marilyn Monroe were decisive factors in Ted Stampfer giving permission to exclusively exhibit the collection in museums and galleries for the public. Through his interest in more acquisitions he has given additional participants the opportunity to show pieces that have never been seen before. As a curator he borrows from partners and encourages cooperation between partners in the renting of additional unique pieces as well as helping with the conceptual understanding. He is available to give advice on technical issues.

Ted Stampfer is an expert and is one of the few individuals whose collections are accessible to the public. With his exhibition projects, however, he does not merely want to remember a talented actress who made history with her unique nature and incomparable presence. Instead, he concentrates on the individual and sheds light on her personal, unfamiliar side. He provides information about a clever business woman with ambition and concrete objectives, who remained a completely normal person, despite her fame.

Ted Stampfer presents everyday objects from Marilyn Monroe's private property, favourite dresses that she wore for important shoots, and documents that provide a look behind the mask. All this is staged by Stampfer with a proper respect and a clear distancing from suspect, mostly scandalous stories written by the U.S. press.

Single pieces of his collection have been shown in exhibitions, previews and showrooms in Europe, China and the United States. His current project allows for a series of exhibitions in selected

museums in Europe that has never existed in this form before and keeps it as a premiere collection. The collection is complemented with other individual loaned pieces from Christine Krogull, Christine Schulz, Maite Minguez Ricart, Esther Kreis and Daniel Amberg.

Ted Stampfer communicates with partners, journalists, media companies and collectors worldwide. In addition, he is in direct contact with a relative of Marilyn Monroe and the executor of Rock Hudson. However, he keeps a strict distance from Monroe fanatics.

Ted Stampfer studied business administration with focus on marketing and communication/presentation. He worked for many years in various industrial companies, and held department management positions in finance and accounting.

At the age of 17, alongside his career he worked in art exhibitions. With his own Marilyn Monroe collection in 2009 he started a series of exhibitions. Early 2012, he founded his own company, which has since brought together exhibition activities such as renting and buying and selling. His current exhibition tour runs until 2015 in various European countries. In parallel, Ted Stampfer is involved in several book projects.

Workshops and competitions

Marilyn Monroe sings "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" in the movie "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes". The workshop that accompanies the special exhibition is all about this penchant that the unforgettable and incomparable artist had. Under expert guidance, children aged six years and older can decorate a wooden letter puzzle, spelling "Marilyn". Whether with glitter beads, glass stones or gold ribbons; it should sparkle and shine like diamonds in the Marilyn Monroe song. After the workshop to commemorate the afternoon, the art may be taken home. Participation in the workshop is free. Marilyn puzzle and craft materials will be provided by the Toy Worlds Museum Basle. Registration is not required, depending on the number of participants, it just needs some patience.

There are two competitions at this exhibition. "Looking for Marilyn experts", which can increase one's knowledge about Marilyn. Use a little skill and a visit to the exhibition or our website to find the right answers.

In the second competition, the creative side of all ages is sought. A work of art is to be created with seven prefabricated wooden letters spelling "Marilyn". All submitted Marilyn objects are to be exhibited for public inspection from 21 December 2013 to 5 January 2014 at the entrance to Toy Worlds Museum Basle. Members of the public have one vote and can choose their favourite.

Facts & figures

Opening hours.

Museum, shop and restaurant

from 10.00–18.00 daily

The Swiss and Upper Rhine Museum Passes are valid for the Toy Worlds Museum Basle.

Admission.

CHF 7.00/5.00

Children up to 16 years of age are admitted free of charge and only in the company of adults.

No additional charge for the special exhibition.

The entire building is wheelchair-accessible.

Media contact

Further information is available from:

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Background information/pictures available online at:

www.toy-worlds-museum-basle.ch

Media, password: swmb



Toy Worlds Museum Basle

Filmography

The films without titles translated into German were not released in German cinemas or on television. Marilyn Monroe's voice was regularly dubbed into German by Margot Leonard.

- 1947** Dangerous Years – Directed by: Arthur Pierson
- 1948** Scudda Hoo! Scudda Hay! – Directed by: F. Hugh Herbert
- 1948** Ladies of the Chorus – Directed by: Phil Karlson
- 1949** Love Happy – Directed by: David Miller
- 1950** A Ticket to Tomahawk – Directed by: Richard Sale
- 1950** The Asphalt Jungle – Directed by: John Huston
- 1950** Right Cross – Directed by: John Sturges
- 1950** The Fireball – Directed by: Tay Garnett
- 1950** All About Eve – Directed by: Joseph L. Mankiewicz
- 1951** Home Town Story – Directed by: Arthur Pierson
- 1951** As Young as You Feel – Directed by: Harmon Jones
- 1951** Love Nest – Directed by: Joseph M. Newman
- 1951** Let's Make It Legal – Directed by: Richard Sale
- 1952** Don't Bother to Knock – Directed by: Roy Ward Baker
- 1952** Clash by Night – Directed by: Fritz Lang
- 1952** We're Not Married – Directed by: Edmund Goulding
- 1952** Monkey Business – Directed by: Howard Hawks
- 1952** O. Henry's Full House – Directed by: Henry Koster
- 1953** Niagara – Directed by: Henry Hathaway
- 1953** Gentlemen Prefer Blondes – Directed by: Howard Hawks
- 1953** How to Marry a Millionaire – Directed by: Jean Negulesco
- 1954** River of No Return – Directed by: Otto Preminger
- 1954** There's No Business Like Show Business – Directed by: Walter Lang
- 1955** The Seven Year Itch – Directed by: Billy Wilder
- 1956** Bus Stop – Directed by: Joshua Logan
- 1957** The Prince and the Showgirl – Directed by: Laurence Olivier
- 1959** Some Like It Hot – Directed by: Billy Wilder
- 1960** Let's Make Love – Directed by: George Cukor
- 1961** The Misfits – Directed by: John Huston
- 1962** Something's Got to Give (unfinished) – Directed by: George Cukor



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Awards

- 1951** Golden Globe Henrietta Award for the most promising personality of the year
- 1952** Photoplay Award: Special Award
- 1952** Magazine “Look”: Personality of the Year 1952
- 1953** Golden Globe Henrietta Award: World Film Favourite – Female
- 1953** Photoplay Award for the fastest rising star of 1952
- 1953** Redbook Award for Best Young Box Office Personality
- 1954** Photoplay Award for Best Actress in “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” and “How to Marry a Millionaire”?
- 1956** BAFTA Film Award – Nomination for Best Foreign Actress in “The Seven Year Itch”
- 1956** Golden Globe – Nomination for Best Actress in (Comedy or Musical) for “Bus Stop”
- 1958** BAFTA Film Award – Nomination for Best Foreign Actress in “The Prince and the Showgirl”
- 1958** David di Donatello (Italy) for Best Foreign Actress in “The Prince and the Showgirl”
- 1959** Crystal Star Award (France) for “The Prince and the Showgirl”
- 1960** Golden Globe Award for Best Actress (Comedy or Musical) for “Some Like It Hot”
- 1962** Golden Globe Award for Female World Film Favourite



Short Biography Marilyn Monroe

- 1926** Marilyn Monroe is born Norma Jeane Mortenson on 1 June in Los Angeles. She is placed in foster care on 13 June.
- 1933** She goes back to her mother.
- 1935** Her mother suffers a nervous breakdown and is admitted to a mental hospital.
- 1935 – 1937** She is placed in an orphanage in Los Angeles and then moves in with an aunt.
- 1942** Marriage to James Dougherty – a marriage of convenience to avoid having to return to the orphanage.
- 1942 – 1945** She works as an assembly line worker, spray painter and photo model. First photographed by David Conover.
- 1945** Her first photographs appear in the U.S. Army magazine “Yank, the Army Weekly”.
- 1946** She gets her first film contract with 20th Century Fox and takes the stage name Marilyn Monroe. Divorces James Dougherty.
- 1947** First movie experience is as an extra in “The Shocking Miss Pilgrim”. First movie role is in the film “Dangerous Years”.
- 1947 – 1962** She stars in a total of 31 films.
- 1948** She signs a six-month contract with Columbia Pictures. Her first mentor is Johnny Hyde, vice-president of the William Morris Agency, who helps her get additional film roles.
- 1949** The photographer Tom Kelley photographs the famous calendar page: Marilyn Monroe on Red Velvet.
- 1951** 20th Century Fox re-sign her on a seven-year contract. By the end of the year she receives 2,000 to 3,000 fan letters a week.
- 1952** She gets to know baseball star Joe DiMaggio. Her first real starring breakthrough role is in the film “Niagara”. On her birthday, she receives a major role in “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes”, which she finishes in the following year.
- 1954** She marries Joe DiMaggio. In February she performs in Korea for thousands of U.S. soldiers deployed there. Separating from Joe DiMaggio in the autumn of the same year. She moves to Manhattan, founds a production company with photographer Milton Greene, Marilyn Monroe Productions, Inc. She starts acting classes with Lee Strasberg at the Actors Studio.
- 1955** Officially divorces Joe DiMaggio.
The film “The Seven Year Itch” premieres with the famous film scene on the subway grating.
- 1956** Marriage to Arthur Miller.
Filming of “Bus Stop” and then “The Prince and the Showgirl” for Marilyn’s own film production company. Filming begins in England where she meets Queen Elisabeth II.
- 1959** She shoots her successful movie “Some Like It Hot” and in the following year receives the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress.



Toy Worlds Museum Basle

- 1960** In Nevada she stars in her last completed film “The Misfits”, the screenplay was written by husband Arthur Miller. Her film role is too close to her real life.
- 1961** Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe divorce. She is in regular contact with her ex-husband and friend Joe DiMaggio.
- 1962** March: She gets her second Golden Globe Award, this time for the most popular actress in the world, presented by Rock Hudson.
- May: She performs on 19 May at the birthday party of John F. Kennedy and sings her famous “Happy Birthday” at Madison Square Garden, New York, in front of 17,000 Democrats.
- June: 20th Century Fox announce a new contract.
- End of June: three-day photo shoot for “Vogue”, with celebrity photographer Bert Stern, later known as the “Last Sitting”. However, there were some more photo shoots with other photographers.
- The end of July / beginning of August: Marilyn negotiates a new contract with 20th Century Fox, who promise her a higher salary and more rights. The interrupted filming of “Something’s Got to Give” continues.
- Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio decide to remarry on 8 August.
- On 5 August Marilyn Monroe is found dead in bed at her home in Brentwood, Los Angeles.
- 8 August, the day her wedding was planned, she is carried to her grave; despite the police and doctors doubting she has committed “suicide”.



Quotes of Marilyn Monroe

“I knew I belonged to the public and to the world. Not because I was talented or even beautiful, but because I had never belonged to anything or anyone else.”

“I’m going to be a great movie star some day.”

“I’m not interested in money, I just want to be wonderful.”

“The body is meant to be seen, not all covered up.”

“I’ve been on a calendar, but never on time.”

“I have too many fantasies to be a housewife. I guess I am a fantasy.”

“An actress is not a machine, but they treat you like a machine. A money machine.”

“Being a sex symbol is a heavy load to carry, especially when one is tired, hurt and bewildered.”

“I don’t know who invented high heels, but all women owe him a lot.”

“If I had observed all the rules, I’d never have gotten anywhere.”

“A wise girl kisses but doesn’t love, listens but doesn’t believe, and leaves before she is left.”

“What do I wear in bed? Why, Chanel No. 5, of course.”

“Sex is a part of nature. I go along with nature.”

“After all, if I can’t be myself, who can I be I would like to know.”

“A career is wonderful, but you can’t curl up with it on a cold night.”

“I don’t mind living in a man’s world as long as I can be a woman in it.”