

UNIQUE PETER SELLERS with SOPHIA LOREN PHOTOS REDISCOVERED

Previously unseen photos of **Peter Sellers** and **Sophia Loren** from 1960 have been very recently rediscovered which beautifully capture a unique moment in history where British comedy, music and movies came together, an event which has links to The Beatles, Hollywood and the story of a British showbusiness giant, much loved and yet bedevilled by a troubled personal life of his own making.

This exclusive portfolio of thirty-seven monochrome photographs give a never-before-seen insight into the obsessional 'love' that developed in Sellers for his vivacious 26-year-old married co-star, **Sophie Loren**, during the making of the film 'The Millionairess'.

Taken by one of the era's foremost entertainment/celebrity photographers Richi Howell, they show Sellers and Loren, together with EMI's (pre-Beatles, then just) comedy producer **George Martin** and Loren's film-producer husband, Carlo Ponti, at London's Abbey Road Studios during the recording of the soundtrack for the film and the hit single 'Goodness, Gracious Me'.

The thirty-seven images are an account of the full day: their arrival, rehearsals, recording and playback of the recording session. They also document many informal, off-guard moments between the two stars and companions, moments which, in today's reality-obsessed world, expose some intimate scenes previously hidden and offer some clues as to how and why Sellers' infatuation developed.

They are a bittersweet account and precursor to what was to follow.

As detailed in the new biopic **film release** "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers" (international release on 1 Oct 2004 - Icon Pictures), though completely rebuffed by Loren during the making of the film, Sellers' family meeting to explain why he was leaving his family exposed the human weakness in the comedy giant. Asked by his five-year-old daughter if he still loved them, he replied "Of course I do, darling, just not as much as Sophia Loren."

This extraordinary collection of photos represents a rarity for that time: a portrait of superstars in the making, in an unstaged and completely relaxed working environment. They are images that would have been unusable in their day but which, nearly fifty years later, have a very contemporary and, considering Sellers' remarkable life choices, near paparazzo quality to them.

The photographs, with the benefit of hindsight, tell a different story to the original script, showing an event, previously hidden, now half-exposed to the light and show a flawed facet in the comedy jewel of Peter Sellers.

Jpeg images are available on request.

*** An photographic exhibition of the portfolio is anticipated in October 2004 at a London venue. Details to follow.**

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