

GEORGE CLOONEY OLD-SCHOOL CHARMER JOINS HOLLYWOOD GREATS ON FILM

Oscar winner George Clooney is used to getting top billing. But when the cast list features the legendary likes of Clark Gable, Marlene Dietrich and Greta Garbo, he's happy merely to get a mention.



The *Up in the Air* star (right), along with Penélope Cruz and other contemporary stars, joins icons of the silver screen whose images are being auctioned off in a multimillion-dollar sale of photography from the collection of Michael H. Epstein and Scott E. Schwimer.

Among the tens of thousands of pieces that will go under the hammer to raise money for the collectors' favourite good causes is George Hurrell's iconic *Vanity Fair* portrait of Jean Harlow on a bearskin rug and this 2002 black-and-white study of Penélope (left).

Also included in the auction are master prints by Richard Avedon, Man Ray, Helmut Newton and Herb Ritts, the subjects reading like a who's who of Hollywood past and present.

"It's time for Scott and me to share the fruits of our 25-year collection with the rest of the world," explains Michael. "We want others to enjoy and embrace the most rewarding field of collecting with which we can ever imagine being involved."



SIMON COWELL PUCKERS UP ON 'THE TONIGHT SHOW'



He may be known for his nasty quips and cutting remarks on *American Idol*, but Simon Cowell showed a surprisingly tender side while visiting *The*

Tonight Show with Jay Leno in Los Angeles. During his appearance, the producer, 50, gave his fiancée, 36-year-old makeup artist Meaghan Hussainy, a loving

smooch – albeit with his eyes open – after Jay invited her on stage.

Simon also confirmed engagement rumours – but only after blushing, giggling and sweating his way through an outright denial.

"I always said if I got engaged it would be to a make up artist," he joked. "I get touched up three times a night." Asked by Jay how he proposed, Simon simply said: "I bought her the ring in London," and vowed that the wedding will happen "within the next 10 years."

The tough guy hasn't gone totally soft, however. In a recent interview, he had harsh words for rock star Sting, who has called music reality shows "preposterous" and "appalling." "First of all, anybody who at the age of 60 calls himself Sting is an idiot," Simon said, adding that people like Sting have "got everything they want in their lives, but what they're really saying is anybody else who needs a shot shouldn't be allowed to do it."