



Jobs | Cars.com | Real Estate | Rentals | Foreclosures | Hello Visitor | Register | Sign-In | More Classifieds

LAT Home | Print Edition | All Sections

Los Angeles Times | California | Local

SEARCH



Crime Education Politics Environment Immigration Traffic O.C.

You are here: LAT Home > California | Local



California/Local

Columnists:

- » Steve Lopez
- » Sandy Banks
- » Hector Tobar
- » George Skelton

Community Papers:

- » Burbank
- » Newport Beach
- » Laguna Beach
- » Huntington Beach
- » Glendale

News/Opinion

- California | Local
- National
- World
- Business
- Sports
- Washington
- Science
- Environment
- Opinion

Arts/Entertainment

- Entertainment
- The Guide
- Company Town
- Arts & Culture
- Calendar
- The Envelope
- TV Listings
- Movie Showtimes

Living

- Travel
- Health
- Autos
- Home & Garden
- Food
- Image
- Books
- Brand X **NEW** Magazine

Data Desk

- Video
- Photography
- Obituaries
- Crosswords/Sudoku
- Your Scene

Blogs

- Columnists
- Print Edition
- Readers Rep

Wax celebrities go on the auction block

A Hollywood museum is selling more than 200 hand-sculpted figures in a look-alike shake-up. The life-size replicas made of oil-painted wax are expected to fetch about \$3,000 each.

By Bob Pool
8:36 PM PDT, April 30, 2009

Leonardo DiCaprio, Harrison Ford and Elizabeth Taylor are hanging around a Newbury Park warehouse today, waiting for the hammer to drop on their careers as a Hollywood attraction.

They are among more than 200 hand-sculpted figures that will be auctioned off tonight by the Hollywood Wax Museum as part of a celebrity look-alike shake-up.



Photos: Wax figures to go on...

Inside the darkened warehouse, replicas of Rodney Dangerfield and Jay Leno stood like propped corpses and seemed to stare at Roslyn Tomlinson and her husband, Peter, as they inspected the wax celebrities Thursday. The couple operate their own wax museum in Surfers Paradise, Australia, and are planning to expand their collection.

"You're not seeing them at their best. You're seeing them at their saddest," Roslyn Tomlinson said, explaining that wax museum figures morph from creepy to creative when displayed in movie-like settings beneath artful lighting.

The couple were quick to pick Australian stars Mel Gibson, Paul Hogan and Nicole Kidman from the crowd of characters.

Peter Tomlinson said he has commissioned a wax replica of President Obama for their museum.

Sundher, meantime, said his museum is phasing out its politicians. Up for auction are depictions of presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Gerald Ford, Thomas Jefferson, John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

Sports figures such as Tiger Woods and singers such as Cyndi Lauper also are being culled as the museum's collection tilts more toward movie and TV personalities, Sundher said.

"We're the Hollywood Wax Museum, and that's what people expect," he said.

The new figures will allow visitors "to interact with the stars -- sit on the bench with Forrest Gump or on the bed with Hugh Hefner," Sundher said.

Although the new figures will be made to be more durable, they will continue to be sculpted from wax and not molded with polyester or plastic.

"The name 'Hollywood Polyester Museum' doesn't sound as good," Sundher said.

Some of the life-size replicas made of oil-painted wax are being permanently removed from the Hollywood Boulevard tourist attraction. Others are being replaced with updated figures that visitors can touch and pose with for snapshots, said museum partner Tej Sundher.

The figures are expected to fetch about \$3,000 each, said Joseph Maddalena, president of the Profiles in History auction company. Bids can be phoned in or made on the Internet, he said.

Email | Print | Text | RSS

ADVERTISEMENT

Most Viewed Most E-mailed

1. White House adjusts Biden's swine flu advice
2. Scientists see this flu strain as relatively mild
3. Corona woman elaborates on her claim that the Zodiac killer was her father
4. As U.S. swine flu cases rise, more schools close
5. South El Monte eatery has oodles of noodles, but few diners
6. H1N1 virus gone viral: Swine flu updates and resources online
7. Stocks end mixed after Chrysler bankruptcy news
8. Hugh Jackman returns to signature role as Wolverine
9. LAPD ties 72-year-old man to two waves of serial killings
10. An edgy quiet descends over Mexico City

ADVERTISEMENT