

CHARITY AUCTION OF PUPPETS FROM WARHORSE

Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 7.15pm



Bonhams are delighted to be hosting an auction of puppets from the theatre production *War Horse*. The auction will include a selection of the show's most beloved characters including Joey, Topthorn, Coco and Heine amongst others. The proceeds of the sale will be donated to the Handspring Trust, a non-for-profit organisation committed to the promotion and development of the art of puppetry in South Africa.

The Handspring Trust was established by Basil Jones, co-founder of the Handspring Puppet Company, in 2010. The trust shares the philosophy and ethos of the Theatre troupe, seeking to inspire creativity and innovation in puppet performance. The Handspring Company is renowned for its cutting-edge practices and avant-garde aesthetics and design. The trust is committed to building on this tradition, engaging new performers, and developing arts and performance initiatives that fulfil its educational and cultural objectives.

The trust is currently working with research and development programmes to promote puppetry design and performance in the rural community of Barrydale and the urban settlement of Vrygrond near Handspring's manufactory in Capricorn Park.

We encourage you to open your hearts and wallets to support this worthwhile cause, and to secure a piece of theatre history.

Bonhams will not be charging any vendor's commission or buyer's premium on these seven lots. Online bidding will not be available on the evening of the auction, however we will be able to arrange telephone bids for those unable to attend in person.

The sale of the War Horse puppets is subject to the restriction prohibiting their use in relation to public performances. The terms of this restriction will be available for perusal by potential buyers before the auction, and purchasers will be required to sign an acknowledgment that they are aware of the restriction.

Please direct enquires about the event to Eliza Sawyer on +44 (0)20 7468 5881 or email eliza.sawyer@bonhams.com.



A1*
JOEY

Joey is the chief protagonist and hero of War Horse. The play tells the story of how he is taken from his mother and sold into farm labour. At the outbreak of the First World War, he is uprooted again when he is drafted in to serve as a war horse. His stoicism and loyalty have endeared him to millions across the world. His status as a national icon was confirmed when Queen Elizabeth II invited him to lead her own household cavalry at the Windsor Tattoo, where they passed her in royal salute.



A2*

TOPHORN

Never meant for war, Tophorn is a proud and noble race horse. His rider, Captain Stewart, soon befriends Joey's rider, Captain Nicholls, and the two horses develop a close relationship. Tophorn, the faster and more agile of the horses, inspires Joey on the front line and encourages him to become a superior war horse. The friendship becomes mutually beneficial when the pair are captured by the Germans. Forced to pull heavy carts, Joey's prior experience as a farm horse stands them in good stead.



A3*
FOAL

In the opening scenes, Joey, still only a young foal, is separated from his mother and sold to a farm. We first see the puppet alone, emerging from the mist at the rear of a vast and empty stage.



A4*
GOOSE

The beloved farmyard goose that so often stole the show and added an important note of levity to the story.





A5*
TWO CROWS

The crows feature in many of the scenes, hovering over the fields and scenes of battle.

A6*

COCO & HEINE

Coco and Heine are the pair of horses that pull the gun carriage. Their ravaged bodies demonstrate the physical hardships they have suffered, and reveal the full cost of war. When the pair are left for dead on the battlefield, their positions on the gun rig are filled by Joey and Tophorn.



A7*

FOUR MUSTERING HORSES

These four horses appear in the great battle charge as well as in the army recruiting scene near the beginning of the play. The outbreak of the First World War led to a surge in demand for horses. The army travelled around the country buying horses from farms and stables. This compromised the livelihoods of many owners, however they sold the horses for the greater good and defense of the nation.

