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**CORCORAN PRESENTS *SHOOTING STARS: PUBLICITY STILLS FROM EARLY HOLLYWOOD AND PORTRAITS BY ANDY WARHOL*
February 9—April 21, 2013**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—This winter, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design** will open *Shooting Stars: Publicity Stills from Early Hollywood and Portraits by Andy Warhol*, on view from February 9 through April 21, 2013. Drawn primarily from the Corcoran’s collection, the exhibition features promotional photographs of early Hollywood film stars alongside Polaroid portraits and black-and-white images by Andy Warhol. Made half a century apart, these two bodies of work illustrate some of the ways photographers have contributed to our understanding of celebrity and fame. The exhibition explores the transition from America’s early cinematic star system to the Warholian reinvention of fame, which allowed anyone to become—however briefly—a public personality.

During the 1920s heyday of silent cinema through the 1930s introduction of sound and color, studios like MGM and Warner Bros. distributed headshots of actors and still photographs of film sets, promoting their “picture personalities” to a rapt audience. This exhibition includes images of some of the best-known stars of this era, such as Mary Pickford, Rudolph Valentino, Gloria Swanson, and Lon Chaney. “These photographs are generally the work of unknown cameramen who worked for film studios,” said Paul Roth, senior curator and director of photography and media arts at the



Shooting Stars/page two

Corcoran. “They combined the formal conventions of historic portrait painting, the emerging lighting techniques of cinema, and traditions developed for the marketing of theater and music to pioneer an intoxicating new visual language—custom-made to promote a rising cinematic *haut monde* to the world.”

In the high-flying 1970s and 1980s, Warhol drew on this same tradition to create his own iconography of fame, making commissioned portraits of aristocrats and businessmen, socialites and politicians, athletes and models. Embracing a liberal notion of celebrity, Warhol used poses and compositions perfected by Hollywood’s silent-film era publicity machine, transforming well-known figures like Senator Ted Kennedy and underground legends like Factory “superstar” Jackie Curtis. Through the lens, Warhol’s subjects became worthy entrants to a decadent pantheon, stars for a star struck time.

In 2008 the Corcoran was gifted a significant group of Warhol’s photographs by The Andy Warhol Foundation’s Photographic Legacy Program. The film stills included in this exhibition are principally drawn from the private collection of Robert Hunter, a British fan of silent cinema; they were donated to the Corcoran in 1997. “*Shooting Stars* is presented in galleries dedicated to the Corcoran’s permanent collection of photography and media arts. It offers us the opportunity to present two distinct and important groups of work in the Corcoran’s collection, and consider the connections between them,” said Kaitlin Booher, assistant curator of photography and media arts, who organized the exhibition with Roth.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHY AND MEDIA ARTS COLLECTION

In the late 19th century, the Corcoran was among the first museums in the United States to acquire photographs. The museum began collecting photography and media art in earnest in the 1970s and has since obtained works in a wide variety of media made between the 1850s and the present day. The collection now includes more than 6,500 photographs, videos, and digital works, which together reflect diverse ideas and styles important to the evolution of photographic history.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran’s hours of operation are as follows: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission to *Shooting Stars: Publicity Stills from Early Hollywood and Portraits by Andy Warhol* is \$10 for adults, and \$8 for seniors (62+) and students (with valid ID). Children 12 and under, active duty military (with ID) and Corcoran Members enter for free.

MEMBERSHIP

Corcoran Gallery of Art membership offers special access to the Corcoran’s renowned collection, temporary exhibitions, lectures, films, concerts and an array of social events. Members also receive valuable discounts at the Corcoran Shop, Todd Gray’s Muse at the Corcoran, and the Corcoran College of Art + Design. Corcoran Members may visit *Shooting Stars: Publicity Stills from Early Hollywood and Portraits by Andy Warhol* an unlimited number of times for free. For more information, contact the Membership office at (202) 639-1753, membership@corcoran.org or online at www.corcoran.org/membership.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Hours

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

The Corcoran is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Admission

\$10 Adults; \$8 full-time students (with ID) and seniors (62+); children under 12 free; Corcoran Members free.

Images:

Page one: Andy Warhol, *Edward Kennedy*, 1979. Dye diffusion transfer (Polaroid) print. Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., 2008.012.036. © 2012 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Page one: Photographer unknown, *Untitled (John Gilbert)*, c. 1927. Gelatin silver print. Image courtesy Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., gift of Robert Hunter, Esq. 1997.11.52.

Page two: Photographer unknown, *Untitled (Irene Dunne)*, c. 1927. Gelatin silver print. Image courtesy Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., gift of Robert Hunter, Esq., 1997.11.29.

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