Fab backstage photos of Beatles to sell for £30k

BY **TOM BEVAN**

PHOTOS of The Beatles backstage at their famous Ed Sullivan Show performance are among an original collection set to fetch £30,000 at auction.

The contact sheets were composed by the Beatles' in-house photographer Leslie Bryce and include thousands of snaps of the Fab Four's amazing career.

The earliest shots capture their performance at The Winter Gardens, Margate, Kent, in July 1963 and include images of John, Paul, George and Ringo playing table tennis.

They are followed by contact strips of the first American tour, including backstage images of the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964.

Other sheets include the making of the films Hard Days Night and Help while later photos document the recording of Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band in 1967 and the premiere of the animated Yellow Submarine film in 1968.

They have now been listed for sale by Leslie's family and will go under the hammer at Sworders in London on July 6.

The collection of more than 400 sheets is expected to sell for £22,500-28,000.

FAMED Beatles at Sullivan

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DAILY RECORD Tuesday, June 23, 2026

I'll live to a very old age & drive everyone mad. They'll go 'That bloody woman is 103, when will she stop?!'

Diane Keen's miracle recovery from massive stroke

EXCLUSIVE
BY **PETER ROBERTSON**

Diane in Nescafé ad and, *below*, The Feathered Serpent

As Bianca Hamilton in 1977 flick Sweeney! alongside John Thaw

Diane had a patch over her eye for 17 months after losing sight in it

Diane is one of TV's great survivors and if there is any suggestion that is an overstatement, just ask her doctors.

Nearly three years ago, the versatile star suffered a stroke so catastrophic that medics told her only two per cent of people would have lived to tell the tale.

After defying such odds, Diane is writing her autobiography, producing a feature film and making a documentary about medical miracles such as hers.

And as she turns 80 next month, the actress believes she is in it for the long haul, saying: "I will be living to a very old age. I will drive everybody mad. They'll go, 'That bloody woman is 103, when is she going to stop?!'"

Born in London and raised in East Africa, Diane has had a long and varied career, being hugely prominent in the 1970s and 1980s.

She became a household name after starring as Fliss Hawthorne alongside David Roper in the popular Granada sitcom The Cuckoo Waltz.

Other big roles included Jenny Burden in The Ruth Rendell Mysteries and Julia Parsons on BBC soap Doctors.

She dabbled in children's TV, playing emperor's daughter Chimalma in The Feathered Serpent, while she also appeared in the 1977 movie spin-off of The Sweeney and starred in the Nescafé adverts of the 1980s.

But it is away from showbiz that Diane has encountered her biggest drama, although she had no doubt it was not the final curtain for her.

The star, who has a daughter Melissa with her second husband, actor Paul Greenwood, said: "I never ever thought I would die. I never questioned it.

"Even when my daughter was told that I probably would die, I just kept thinking ahead to when I'd be fully recovered and would pick up my life from where I left off.

"I didn't even consider being wheelchair-bound. It wasn't going to happen. It's so important to have a positive attitude and be determined to do all you can to recover.

"I saw people a lot younger than me on those wards give up. I'm not religious, but I have faith in the way the universe works."

It was at her theatrical agent daughter's house on July 20, 2023, that Diane suffered her stroke.

She says: "I was looking after Melissa's pets while she was on holiday. I experienced an enormous loud explosion in my head. Then things started spinning and I felt dizzy. I stood there holding on to a door, thinking, 'That was weird. I wonder what it was?' Then it dawned on me and I said out loud, 'Oh my God, I've had a stroke!'

"My body became paralysed and I hit the deck with a thump.

"With only two fingers and two toes properly functioning, I very slowly got to the bottom of the stairs, but couldn't move any further. I couldn't speak and could hardly see. All I could do was wait until Melissa returned the next day. I then spent 30 hours lying on her living room floor. I eventually woke to Melissa going, 'Oh my God, Mum!'"

Within 30 minutes, an ambulance arrived and took Diane to the nearest hospital, in Portsmouth. She says: "I had a clot at the base of my skull and another at the top of my head.

"The consultant took Melissa to one side and bluntly told her, 'There's massive brain damage, so get your family here as quick as possible because she probably doesn't have long'.

"A lovely matron assigned a stroke consultant to me, Dr Khan, who was excellent. He took my hands in his and said, 'I won't lie, you've had one of the most serious strokes, and if you have another in the next two weeks that will kill you. But we're going to do everything possible to get you through this. You're a fighter and so am I. I promise you you're going to walk out of hospital, and with luck, the clots will dissolve in time'.

"Within 20 minutes, I had every piece of medical equipment known to man... I resembled a Cyborg, but I just knew I was safe. Two weeks later, I was able to stand. Learning to walk again as an adult is scary. I found that the hardest part. But after three weeks, Dr Khan said, 'I am satisfied you are medically sound', and a nurse told me, 'You're a miracle!'"

Diane was in hospital for two months but the doctors were stunned by her powers of recovery. She says: "My speech was bad, and my sight wasn't good, as one eye didn't work. I had a patch over it for 17 months. Now that's much improved and my face is how it should be.

"Sometimes I get respiratory and memory problems. I forgot Andrew Lloyd Webber's name when I was interviewed on stage last year.

"My consultant said, 'With the type of stroke you had, there's only a 2% chance of survival. People who do survive are usually in a wheelchair. Their face and sight don't recover, and they need constant care. Then there's you, and we don't know how you've come out of this the way you have'.

"I think a good title for my autobiography would be 'I'm still here!'"

Of her documentary on stroke survival, she adds: "I want people to know you don't get any warning with a stroke. One minute you're all right, the next you're not. If I can help even one person and show what they can do, that'll be worth it."

She continues: "When I was leaving hospital in Portsmouth, Dr Khan said to me, 'At the end of your recovery, come back to me and we'll have a good chat over a cup of tea'.

"That's what I'm going to do. I can't wait. Dr Khan saved my life."

Fighter Diane is now writing her memoirs, producing a film and making a documentary

With David Roper and their on-screen kids in hit sitcom The Cuckoo Waltz (1975-1980)