

Propstore



# An Introduction to Film & Television Memorabilia Collecting



Los Angeles

[propstore.com/PlanetHollywood](http://propstore.com/PlanetHollywood)



A Personal Invitation from Robert Earl.

As the founder of Planet Hollywood, I've had the privilege of curating one of the most iconic collections of movie memorabilia in the world—pieces that celebrate the films that made us laugh, cry, and fall in love with cinema.

These are not just props and costumes—they're fragments of film history, sourced from culturally significant, iconic, and cult-classic films that have stood the test of time. For over three decades, Planet Hollywood was home to these treasures, proudly displayed in our restaurants across the globe. Each item carries with it the rare and special provenance of having been part of the Planet Hollywood collection—something that, in itself, is a piece of pop culture history. As Planet Hollywood continues to expand across a variety of exciting new hospitality ventures, we no longer need to maintain such a massive archive—making this the perfect time to share these extraordinary pieces with collectors and fans around the world.

Whether you're just beginning your journey as a collector, or looking to add something truly unique to an already impressive archive, this auction offers an incredible opportunity. This specific offering was designed to be surprisingly accessible, making them perfect for the passionate fan or the seasoned collector alike.

It's more than memorabilia—it's a chance to bring home a piece of the magic that has made cinema so timeless. I hope these pieces find new homes where they'll be treasured just as much as they've been with us.

Warm regards,

**Robert Earl**

Founder, Planet Hollywood



## Planet Hollywood

Filmmaking is still a relatively young art form—far newer than centuries-old disciplines like painting or sculpture. Early movie and television studios often vastly underestimated the long-term historical value of the props and costumes created for their productions, considering the film itself to be the final artwork. As a result, many iconic items from productions were discarded, destroyed, or simply forgotten before the rise of memorabilia collecting in the 1970s began to preserve these historical artifacts.

Founded in 1991, Planet Hollywood played a major role in bringing film and television memorabilia collecting to the public eye. Its restaurants offered more than just food—they offered a front-row seat to movie history. Guests dined alongside real props and costumes from beloved films and shows, displayed with a level of care and respect rarely seen before. These exhibits showed the public that Hollywood memorabilia wasn't just for backlots and storage rooms—it belonged behind glass, treated with the same reverence as artifacts in any museum.

Congratulations on acquiring this piece of movie memorabilia that not only has a story as part of a production, but also had a second life as an artifact owned and exhibited by Planet Hollywood. If this is your first piece of movie memorabilia or you are just beginning to build your collection, we'd like to offer information that will help you throughout the rest of your journey.

# Propstore

## Common Types of Film & Television Memorabilia

- **Prop** – A prop (short for “property”) is any object used by actors during filming, typically something handled, carried, or interacted with on screen. Key props often play a role in advancing the story or defining a character, making them highly sought after by collectors. Props can range from small handheld items to large set pieces and often display well in personal or professional spaces.
- **Costume** – A costume refers to the wardrobe worn by a character in a film or television production. Costumes help establish personality, period, setting, and tone, and often evolve throughout the story. Collectors value both full ensembles and individual pieces—especially those worn by principal characters—for their strong connection to on-screen performance and identity.
- **Set Decoration** – Set decoration (or “set dressing”) includes items placed in the background of a scene to help build a believable environment. These can range from furniture and signage to wall art and household objects. Though not typically handled by actors, set dec items provide rich visual context and can be seamlessly integrated into home décor or displayed like props.
- **Production Item** – These are tools and materials employed behind the scenes during the filmmaking process. This category includes objects like director’s chair backs, call sheets, continuity binders, clapperboards, and storyboards. It also encompasses crew gifts—such as jackets, hats, or medallions—often produced in limited quantities and highly prized for their rarity and direct connection to the production team.
- **Marketing or Consumer Product** – These items are created for promotional campaigns or retail sale and are not used in the actual production. They include things like licensed merchandise, press kits, and giveaway items tied to a film’s release. While collectible, they are considered replicas or tributes rather than authentic production assets.



**Hot Shots! (1991)**  
Dominic “Mailman” Farnham’s  
(Ryan Styles) Screen-Matched  
Antler-Styled Distressed  
Flight Helmet

## Understanding Purpose and Usage

- **Production-Used** – An item that was used during the filming of a movie or television show. Production-used items are highly valued for their direct link to filming. Production often creates and uses multiple versions of the same item to ensure a streamlined production process and continuity between different scenes, especially during stunt work. While it may not appear in the final cut, it was used in the production and likely present on set.
  - **Hero** – A hero item is typically the highest-quality version of a prop or costume, designed to be seen in close-up shots. These pieces feature enhanced detail, superior craftsmanship, and screen-accurate materials. For example, a hero sword might be constructed from real metal with intricate engravings, while other versions are made from resin or rubber for safety.
  - **Stunt** – Stunt versions are created to withstand action scenes or ensure actor safety. These props are often made from soft or flexible materials such as foam or rubber to prevent injury. Similarly, stunt costumes may be reinforced for durability or modified to accommodate harnesses or rigging. While usually worn by stunt performers, some stunt items may also be used by lead actors in action-heavy scenes.
  - **Background** – Background items are designed for use by extras or in distant shots where detail is less critical. These pieces often replicate the general look of hero versions but are made with simpler materials or finishes, as they’re not intended for close-up viewing.
  - **SFX / VFX** – Special Effects (SFX) and Visual Effects (VFX) items are customized for specific camera tricks or post-production work. An SFX prop might include mechanical elements, like a retractable blade used in a staged stabbing. VFX pieces may feature green screen panels or tracking markers to enable digital enhancements during editing. Though sometimes unusual in appearance, these items played a crucial role in achieving the final visual seen on screen.
- **Production-Made** – An item that was created specifically for use in a production but was likely never used on screen. It may have been a backup, an alternate version, or simply went unused due to changes during filming. These pieces are still considered authentic, as they were produced by or for the original production team.
- **Prototype** – A concept or test version of an item developed during the design or pre-production phase. Prototypes may differ significantly from the final version and were not used in filming, but they offer valuable insight into the creative development process. These can include early sculptural models, costume variations, or alternate prop designs.
- **Replica** – An item created to mimic the appearance of an original production asset. Replicas may be fan-made, studio-licensed, or even crafted by the original production artists. While not screen-used, replicas can be visually striking and are often collected for display. In some cases, collectors may add replica components to complete a partially original piece—for instance, replacing missing parts of a screen-used costume. When selling memorabilia, it’s essential to disclose any replica elements so buyers have an accurate understanding of the item’s composition.



**F/X: The Series (1996-1998)**  
Special Effects Rollie Tyler  
(Cameron Daddo)  
Animatronic Head



**Gremlins (1984)**  
Gremlin Replica

## How Authenticity is Determined

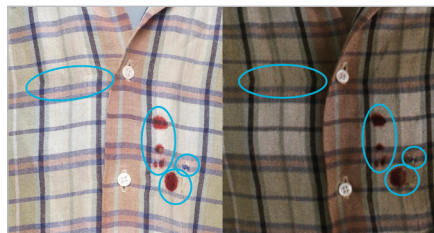
It is standard production practice to have numerous examples of wardrobe pieces and props made in case of damage, failure, or loss. Certain scenes will require that pieces be changed out (for example, if an actor gets wet in a scene), they must be changed and reset for every take. Multiple versions may also exist for continuity purposes or to achieve different shots (special effects versions, etc.). While the production often works hard to make these items appear identical, they often exhibit subtle features that differ.

Given this reality, and the reality that replicas may be offered as the genuine article, it is exceedingly important that research and forensic-level methodologies be employed to determine the authenticity of a piece.

- **Provenance** – Provenance refers to the documented history of an item's ownership and origin, tracing its journey from the production set to the present day. A well-established provenance can significantly enhance the credibility of a piece, especially when it includes details such as acquisition from a production crew member, sale through a recognized auction house, prior public exhibition, or inclusion in reputable collections. The more complete the provenance, the stronger the case for authenticity.
- **COA (Certificate of Authenticity)** – A Certificate of Authenticity is an official document issued by a trusted source—typically an auction house, studio, or licensed seller—confirming that an item is authentic. For example, Propstore issues a COA with every item it sells, featuring its Seal of Authenticity and a lifetime guarantee, providing collectors with added confidence and protection.
- **LOA (Letter of Authenticity)** – A Letter of Authenticity is similar to a COA but is typically issued by an individual rather than an organization. This could include the prop's original creator, costume designer, or another production insider. An LOA can provide unique insight into an item's history and use, often offering firsthand validation from someone directly involved in the production.
- **Screen- or Photo-Matching** – Screen- and photo-matched items are in a very distinct class of production-used items, capable of being directly matched to their on-screen or in-photo counterparts. Screen- or photo-matching is a specialized method of authenticating film and television memorabilia by visually verifying that a specific item was used on screen or during production. This technique has gained prominence in the high-definition era, allowing for detailed forensic comparison that can independently validate an item's provenance beyond traditional methods such as production documentation or provenance letters.

The process involves identifying unique characteristics—such as scratches, distress patterns, paint inconsistencies, or construction anomalies—that distinguish a particular prop or costume from others of the same type. These individual markers are then matched precisely to what appears on screen or in high-resolution production stills.

Screen-matching is widely regarded as the most definitive means of establishing authenticity. It is particularly valuable given the standard industry practice of creating multiple identical or near-identical versions of an item for use in production. When an item can be directly tied to its appearance in a specific scene or sequence through verifiable visual evidence, its desirability and value among collectors increases significantly.



**Jumanji (1995)**  
Young Alan Parrish's (Adam Hann-Byrd)  
Screen-Matched Bloodied Bullying Shirt

## Caring for Film & Television Memorabilia

Screen-used props and costumes were never built for longevity. Materials like foam latex, rubber, and resin naturally degrade over time—especially when exposed to light, heat, or poor storage. Proper care starts with understanding the difference between conservation and restoration.

**Conservation** – Conservation focuses on stabilizing an item to prevent further deterioration. This may involve reinforcing fragile materials, halting cracking or flaking, or adding structural support without altering appearance. Efforts prioritize minimal, reversible intervention to preserve historical integrity.

**Restoration** – Restoration involves repairing damage or recreating missing aesthetic features—such as reattaching parts or repainting surfaces. It should be approached cautiously and performed by professionals familiar with screen-used materials. Any restoration must be disclosed during resale or consignment (e.g., with Propstore).

### UV Protection & Display

Ultraviolet light is a major threat, causing fading, yellowing, and material breakdown. To protect items on display:

- Like Gremlins, keep them out of direct sunlight.
- Use UV-filtering acrylic or museum glass.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with cool-temperature LEDs.
- Maintain stable temperature and humidity.

### Care & Handling

Handling practices significantly impact longevity:

- Avoid food, drink, and smoking near items.
- Avoid wearing jewelry or loose clothing that could catch or scratch surfaces.
- Use pencils instead of pens near objects.
- Wear nitrile gloves (or clean, dry hands for paper/glass).
- Always lift items from strong structural points.

### Storage Tips

When not on display, proper storage can dramatically slow the aging process:

- Avoid attics and basements, which are prone to temperature/humidity swings.
- Store items in archival-quality boxes with acid-free tissue paper for padding.
- For costumes, either:
  - Box heavy garments with tissue supporting folds to prevent creasing.
  - Hang on padded hangers to avoid stress points.



**Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)**

Full-Size Battle-Damaged Stan Winston Studio  
The Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger)  
Statue Display

## Auction Archive

Reviewing prior auctions and seeing how well particular items sold is a great way to get an idea of how similar items might sell in upcoming auctions. Propstore provides an online Auction Archive that allows potential consigners and collectors to search through past sales.



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