

MAX RAMBOD AUCTION

PHONE, FAX, E-MAIL AUCTION

CLOSING THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2005

Address: B.O.X 417 MADISON, TENN.



JAN 31 1956

executed this agreement the.....day of.....195...

SIGN HERE
ARTIST Elvis Presley
WILLIAM MORRIS AGENCY, INC.

BY William Morris Agency
AGEN
**ELVIS' CAREER
LAUNCHING
CONTRACT**

of Variety Artists and by the Labor Commissioner of the State
form on August 25, 1947.

Smith's

For myse

or to any of the

presmanen

united states or

A. Lincoln

1956 Elvis Presley's First Signed Agency Agreement- This Contract Launched His Career

564. PRESLEY, ELVIS

Rock n' Roll legend. Elvis made his first national television appearance on The Dorsey Brothers Stage Show on January 28, 1956. He was an unknown newcomer and Colonel Parker was not yet officially his manager for another 3 months. 3 days later Elvis signed a three-year agreement with the reputable William Morris Agency, this is Elvis first agency contract and it launched his career.

Extremely important Signed Document that launched Elvis's career, DS, 2 pages, dated January 31, 1956, 8-1/2" x 13-3/4". The document states " ... **The Artist employs the Agent as his sole and exclusive Agent and/or Artist Manager ... The Artist represents that he is over 21 years of age...**" In fact, Elvis had just turned 21, three weeks before signing this historic agreement.

The agreement grants 10% of Presley's earnings to the William Morris Agency. This yellow sheet represents the "AGENT'S COPY" of this contract. **An Agent's job is to represent clients in all segments of the entertainment industry, including Music, Motion Pictures, Musical Soundtracks, Television, and Personal Appearances, this contract for all practical purposes launched his career.** Presley's name appears in type at the beginning and end of the document, with the "s" in his type name having a correction both times (obviously, he was not yet a household name at this seminal stage in his career). Elvis signed the contract with a crisp blue ink signature, "Elvis Presley".

This contract predates the release of Elvis's first album with RCA by 3 months, the album was released on March 13 selling over a million copies, it also predates his first appearance on the 'The Milton Berle Show' (June 1956) and his first signed manager agreement with Colonel Parker (March 1956). Before Elvis, Col Parker had a client named Eddy Arnold, whom he signed with Abe Lastfogel, president of the William Morris Agency, and booked him at Las Vegas. Arnold went his own way, although he was introduced and signed up with the William Morris Agency the relationship did not last and things went downhill for everybody. In a new biography by Alanna Nash, "The Colonel- The Extraordinary Story of Tom Parker and Elvis Presley", she further states in page 122 that Col. Parker's "eagerness to shine again in the eyes of the William Morris Agency was no small part of his drive to make Elvis America's number one attraction."

Page 124 of the biography states: "On January 31st 1956, the Morris office prepared a memo that gave the agency the exclusive rights to represent Elvis with **The American Federation of Musicians, The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, The American Guild, and The Screen Actors Guild...** **The William Morris Agency allowed Elvis' manager to book his career launching television appearances and through their innumerable press contacts they constantly promoted his name in print and radio. It was also the William Morris Agency that brought Elvis all his movie deals, including his first starring film deal for "Love Me Tender" (1956) that was signed only 60 days after this contract and followed by, "Loving You" and "Jailhouse Rock" (1957).**

At first, the William Morris Agency's policy was to get Elvis as much work as possible before the star burnt out. The agency had not yet realized Elvis' long lasting impact. Keeping to this policy, the Agency had gotten Elvis a seven picture movie deal within 3 months of signing him on. Elvis' manager was not happy with the stars \$25,000 movie salary, however, under California law only an agent (William Morris) and not a manager could sign a movie deal with the film studios, so the Col. complied.

Elvis complied with every request of the agency, but the Col. had his differences with the William Morris agents, yet he knew that he needed the agency's prestige and contacts to get movie deals, and more importantly, to get Elvis prestigious engagements in Las Vegas. **It was the William Morris Agency who opened doors and made all these deals possible for Elvis, which is why the Agency received 10% of all of Elvis' revenues.** This of course was a huge sum giving the fact that Elvis was breaking all revenue records in the music industry. He was the first RCA artist to gross over a million in a single album. Later, it was again, the William Morris Agency through its contacts, who was able to set up engagements for Elvis in Las Vegas.

On this historic contract his address is noted as "Box 417 MADISON, TENN." The only contract predating this one we have been able to find after extensive research, was his RCA recording contract, signed a few weeks before ours, that contract sold at auction for \$65,000 in 1999. Elvis has his first recording session for RCA on the 10th of January and on the 31st he signs our agreement. Punched-out filing holes on top and a few staple holes along the margins. In excellent condition. See front cover for illustration.

Inventory No. 11561

\$10,000-20,000



AGENCY'S COPY


WILLIAM MORRIS AGENCY
 1740 BROADWAY
 NEW YORK 15, N. Y.
 Telephone: MU 2-6200
 Telex: 251 231
 Western Union: 2-2800

EXCLUSIVE AGENCY CONTRACT

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into as of SEP 20th 1956 by and between WILLIAM MORRIS AGENCY, INC. hereinafter called the "AGENCY" and the Artist's Manager and ELVIS PRESLEY hereinafter called the "ARTIST".

WITNESSETH:

1. The Artist declares the Agency to be his sole and exclusive agent and the Artist's Manager (read above) to be his sole and exclusive agent for the purpose of securing and arranging for the Artist's appearance on radio, television, motion pictures, and other media during the term hereof, and the Artist and the Artist's Manager agree that, during the term hereof, any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, shall be subject to the approval of the Agency, and the Artist agrees to execute any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, only if such agreement is approved by the Agency in writing.

2. The Artist represents and agrees that he is a resident in good standing of the State of Tennessee and that he is a resident of the State of Tennessee.

1. This contract shall be in full force and effect from the date hereof until the date of the expiration of the term hereof, and the Artist agrees to execute any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, only if such agreement is approved by the Agency in writing.

2. The Artist represents and agrees that he is a resident in good standing of the State of Tennessee and that he is a resident of the State of Tennessee.

3. The Artist agrees to execute any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, only if such agreement is approved by the Agency in writing.

4. The Artist agrees to execute any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, only if such agreement is approved by the Agency in writing.

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18. The Artist agrees to execute any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, only if such agreement is approved by the Agency in writing.

19. The Artist agrees to execute any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, only if such agreement is approved by the Agency in writing.

20. The Artist agrees to execute any agreement for the purpose of engaging the Artist in any such activity, only if such agreement is approved by the Agency in writing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement on the day of SEP 20th 1956 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

AGENCY WITNESSETH BY: William Morris Agency, Inc.

ARTIST WITNESSETH BY: Elvis Presley

have executed this agreement the.....day of.....1956.....

SIGN HERE Elvis Presley

ARTIST ELVIS PRESLEY

WILLIAM MORRIS AGENCY, INC.

BY Wm. Morris Agency

JAN 31 1956

COPY NOTED AND DELIVERED BY FAX AGENT TO THE ARTIST AND WMA'S OFFICE BY FAX.

AGENCY AND BY THE LATER COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

The Contract that Opened the Doors for Elvis' Career Making T.V Appearances on the Milton Berle and The Ed Sullivan Shows and also Launched his First Film, "Love Me Tender"

This Contract Predates his First Album and his Contract with Col. Parker.

Lincoln Document Signed Very clean and Bold

61 LINCOLN, ABRAHAM

16th President, assassinated at the close of the Civil War. Document Signed, 1 page, 8 x 7.5", dated May 9, 1854. Legal document concerning the case between two parties of three gentlemen.

In part, 'I do hereby enter myself into security for the cash in this case and acknowledge myself bound to pay or cause to be paid all costs which may accrue as this action either to the opposite party or to any of the officers of this court in pursuance of the laws of the United States or the rules of the court.' Boldly signed at the bottom, "A. Lincoln". At this point in his career, Lincoln had already served in Congress, and was one of the most prominent lawyers in the state. He had declined an appointment to the position of Governor of Oregon Territory in 1849, and turned to his law practice at this point in his career. Usual folds, in very good condition. A very clean Lincoln document with a strong signature. See front cover for color illustration.

Inventory No. 11440

S 5000-75

William T. Mannings
Edward C. Huntington
& Samuel Floyd,

vs
David S. Leitch
Benjamin W. Curtis
& George Hoys.



I do hereby enter
myself security for the cash in this case
& acknowledge myself bound to pay
or cause to be paid all cost which
may accrue in this action either to the
opposite party or to any of the officers of
the court in pursuance of the
laws of the United States or the rules
of this court;

A. Lincoln. 