

For Sale: One Coffin (Slightly Used)

*Now this is an auction tailor-made for
connoisseurs of Strange Hollywood.*

In December 2018, hundreds of items from James Comisar's prized collection were auctioned off at Prop Store in Valencia, California. Comisar started his collection in the early 1980s when he was a joke writer for Joan Rivers. Realizing that the studios didn't care about TV props and just threw them away, he rescued and preserved them, and has since amassed a collection he boasts is ten times larger than the Smithsonian's. Comisar decided to let some of his most prized possessions go, he told the *Los Angeles Daily News*, because the major studios weren't interested in them. "I've been nudging Hollywood for 20-plus years, maybe we should have a standalone museum for our rich TV history." But Hollywood is "indifferent," so, "I thought I'd release some of these pieces back to the fans. They've never been indifferent, they've treated these pieces like religious objects."

The "religious object" that got the most press was Laura Palmer's casket, the very same one that a distraught Leland Palmer (Ray Wise) jumped onto as it was being lowered into the ground on a 1990 episode of *Twin Peaks*. (The casket sold for \$2,440.) Comisar admitted that it felt "bittersweet" to let this stuff go. "Part of me wishes that the

STRANGE HOLLYWOOD

Bat Shield [from the 1960s *Batman*] will sell, but an equal part wishes that it won't, and it'll come back home to me." Good news for Comisar: the Bat Shield didn't sell! Here are some of his items that did:

- *The X-Files* (1993–2002): Agent Dana Scully's (Gillian Anderson) **Autopsy Goggles and Bloody Handkerchief**. Winning bid: \$488
- *Star Trek* (1966–69): **Star Trek Letterhead**. Winning bid: \$1,586
- *My Favorite Martian* (1963–66): **Uncle Martin's (Ray Walston) Full-Sized Metal and Fiberglass Spaceship**. Winning bid: \$97,600
- *Lost* (2004–10): **Dharma Initiative Food Rations**. Winning bid: \$671
- *Elvira: Mistress of the Dark* (1980s): **Elvira's (Cassandra Peterson) Signature Bouffant Wig**. Winning bid: \$3,355
- *Mork & Mindy* (1978–82): **Robin Williams's Signed Studio Contract**. Winning bid: \$1,708
- *Wonder Woman* (1975–79): **Wonder Woman's (Lynda Carter) Bent Pipe**. Winning bid: \$1,586
- *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* (1993–97): **Superman's (Dean Cain) Costume**. Winning bid: \$11,590
- *The Twilight Zone* (1959–64): **Male Nurse's "Pig Face" Makeup Appliance**. Winning bid: \$11,590