

# **Press Release: Savile Row comes to Washington DC**

## ***Savile Row and America: A Sartorial Special Relationship Exhibition***

Thursday 14 May 2015

Savile Row Bespoke is delighted to announce an exhibition: 'Savile Row and America: A Sartorial Special Relationship' curated by Nick Foulkes with a special tribute to Gregory Peck by Huntsman and the world premiere of a bespoke commission by Bentley.

Set in the iconic Lutyens-designed British Ambassador's residence in Washington, the exhibition will celebrate the enduring love affair between American film stars, musicians, politicians and presidents and the home of bespoke menswear, Savile Row in London. This major survey has been made possible by its principal sponsors Huntsman and Bentley and the participation of 17 Savile Row Bespoke member and guest tailoring houses.

Clients represented include: Cary Grant, Kevin Spacey, Michael Jackson, John Pierpont Morgan, Tony Curtis, Benny Goodman, Ralph Lauren, George Bush, Andy Warhol and many others. There will also be a special display on Winston Churchill including rarely-seen personal accessories such as the precious gifts he exchanged with his wife at their wedding.

With over a hundred exceptional pieces from the past and present including garments, patterns, pictures, accessories and fabrics, the exhibition will shine a light into this world of traditional skills, elegance and luxury.

Many of the pieces are on public display for the first time and

juxtaposed with museum artefacts, house archives and modern tailoring. The exhibition has been curated by author, editor and internationally recognised luxury authority Nick Foulkes.

Sir Peter Westmacott, British Ambassador, comments: 'Savile Row is the birthplace of sartorial inventions, like James Bond's tuxedo, that have forever altered the landscape of fashion. Today, a new generation of tailors is energising the industry, honouring their heritage while applying contemporary technologies to the finest fabrics and styles to win admirers worldwide. Today, Savile Row is a vital part of the thriving British fashion industry worth £26 billion (\$39.5bn) to the British economy in 2014 — and it is rapidly expanding around the globe.'

Pierre Lagrange, Chairman of Savile Row Bespoke, said: 'It is a real honour to mount this exhibition showcasing the talents, craft and vitality of the most famous tailoring address in the world. Savile Row is rightly recognised for its long tradition of ultimate quality, but it is also a tradition that is living and thriving; training new generations of craftsmen, constantly inspiring the worlds of fashion and style and responding to customers' changing needs and desires. Americans have long recognised the unique charms of a bespoke Savile Row suit and we have a truly rich selection of pieces in this exhibition exploring this special relationship from Buffalo Bill to Samuel L Jackson.'

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### **The Savile Row Bespoke Association**

The Savile Row Bespoke Association is dedicated to protecting and promoting the practices and traditions that have made Savile Row the acknowledged home of the best bespoke tailoring and a byword for unequalled quality around the world. Uniting the founding fathers of the Row with the New Establishment tailors, the Association protects and develops the craftsmanship that has

been practised in this quarter of London for over two centuries.

**Nicholas Foulkes, curator**

The author of around 20 books on subjects as diverse as James Bond, cigars and the trenchcoat, 'Balls: Legendary Costume Balls of the Twentieth Century' and 'Swans, Legends of the Jet Society'. He contributes to a wide range of newspapers and magazines around the world. He is a columnist for Country Life; a contributing editor to The FT's How To Spend It Magazine; a contributing editor to Vanity Fair; and luxury editor of British GQ. He launched and continues to edit Vanity Fair's twice yearly watch magazine On Time. He is co-founder and editor-in-chief of Finch's Quarterly Review. In 2007 he was named Havana Man of the Year by the Cuban government, and serves on the board of the Norman Mailer Centre.

**Houses represented in the exhibition:**

SRB Members

Alexander McQueen

Davies & Son

Dege & Skinner

Gieves & Hawkes

Henry Poole

Huntsman

Kent Haste & Lachter

Kilgour

Meyer & Mortimer

Welsh & Jefferies

Associate Members

Dormeuil

Harrisons

Edward Sexton

Lutwyche

Guests

Chester Barrie

Kathryn Sargent  
Maurice Sedwell

**Principal Sponsor: Huntsman**

Founded in 1849, of all the great names in tailoring Huntsman is undeniably the house with the strongest visual signature. A classic Huntsman coat is instantly recognisable, characterised by a single button coat with high armholes, suppressed waist and a flair that hints at the house's sporting heritage. Shoulders are sharp, the coat is longer than average and the clean line does not over-emphasise any aspect of the wearer's physique. This is elegance at its most understated, whispering its quality and excellence rather than shouting it. As such, Huntsman has been the natural choice of outstandingly stylish men of the calibre of Gianni Agnelli, the Duke of Beaufort, Hubert de Givenchy, Bill Blass, Ralph Lauren and Hardy Amies.

**Principal Sponsor: Bentley**

Bentley Motors is among the most sought-after luxury car brands in the world. The company's headquarters in Crewe is home to all of its operations, including design, research and development, engineering and production of the company's three model lines: Continental, Flying Spur and Mulsanne. The combination of fine craftsmanship, using skills that have been handed down through generations, alongside engineering expertise and cutting-edge technology is unique to U.K. luxury car brands. It is also an example of high-value British manufacturing at its best. Bentley employs approximately 3,800 people at Crewe.

**Sponsor: Graff**

Graff Diamonds is synonymous with the most fabulous gems. Graff jewellery is exceptional; the quality, style and workmanship are among the best in the world.

From the founding of the company in 1960 to the present day, Graff continues to operate as a family business. Laurence Graff's

son Francois is the company's Chief Executive Officer; his brother Raymond manages the workshop; and nephew Elliott controls the design, merchandising and production of the jewellery. Today, after more than five decades at the pinnacle of the luxury jewellery industry, Graff continues to push the boundaries of ever-greater innovation and excellence.

**Sponsor: The Macallan**

The Macallan, founded in 1824 as one of the first licensed distilleries in Scotland, has its home in Speyside, an area that sweeps from granite mountains down to fertile countryside and is acknowledged as the heartland of malt whisky distillation. The Macallan's reputation as one of the world's most awarded and admired single malts is the result of the devotion, commitment and skill of The Masters of 'Spirit and Wood', the craftsmen at the heart of The Macallan. Their obsession with the finest barley, yeasts and water, their skill in taking only the finest cut of spirit, and their care in maturing it in only the best oak wood has ensured the timeless quality of this legendary single malt.

**Sponsor: GREAT**

The GREAT Britain campaign showcases the very best of what Britain has to offer and welcomes the world to visit, study and do business with the UK. The GREAT campaign works with British luxury brands in fashion, design, service and style – all synonymous with quality, heritage, craftsmanship and innovation.

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