



David Bowie

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Bowie's handwritten Starman lyrics sell for stellar £200,000

Price five times more than estimate as A4 sheet bought by Tasmanian museum

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David Bowie's handwritten lyrics to his 1972 song Starman have sold for more than £200,000 (A\$334,958) at auction, five times their estimated sale price.

The song featured on his **fifth album**, The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars, which propelled the musician to international rock and pop stardom.

The handwritten lyrics, which were originally estimated to fetch up to £40,000 (A\$66,991) sold for £203,500 (A\$340,819), including buyer's premium.

STARMAN

Didn't know what time it was, and the lights were low
I leaned back on my radio
Some cat was layin' down some R'n R "lotta soul", he said
Then the loud sound did seem to fade
Came back on a wave of phase
That ~~went~~ weren't no d.j. That was ~~hazy~~ ^{hazy} cosmic jive

~~Ch~~ There's a Starman waiting in the sky.

He said he'd like to meet us

But he thinks he'd blow our minds

There's a Starman waiting in the sky

He's told us not to blow it

Cause he knows it's all worthwhile

He told me:-

Let the children lose it

Let the children use it

Let all the children boogie

I had to phone someone so I picked on you
Hey, that's far ~~at~~ out so you'd heard ~~them~~ him too!
Switch on the t.v. we may pick him up on channel two
Look out your window I can see his light
If we can sparkle he may land tonight
Don't tell your Poppa or he'll get us locked up in fright

Cho: Cho!
ENDS!

Bowie
Lyrics

📷 The lyrics to David Bowie's Starman. Photograph: Omega Auctions

Olivier Varenne, director of acquisitions and alliances and collections at the Museum of Old and New Art (Mona) in Tasmania in Australia, was the winning bidder.

“We got carried away and paid too much,” Mona’s owner and founder, David Walsh, said on Wednesday.

“It’ll make an appearance in the expanded library we are currently constructing, along with many other items we got carried away with and paid too much for.”

The lyrics, sold as part of a David Bowie and glam rock sale on Tuesday, were previously on display as part of the V&A Museum’s David Bowie Is collection and had been owned by the same person since the 1980s.

The A4 page features handwritten amendments and edits by Bowie, including corrected spelling mistakes and additions.

Paul Fairweather, of Omega Auctions, said: “We had almost unprecedented interest from around the world for this historic piece of memorabilia. We had five telephone lines in operation for the sale as well as bidders online and in the room.

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“We’re very pleased with the incredible price achieved and are sure the lyrics will be rightly prized and treasured by the winning bidder.”

In 2019, the first demo of Bowie singing Starman, who would “like to come and meet us but he thinks he’d blow our minds”, sold for £51,000 (A\$85,414) after gathering dust in a loft for nearly five decades.

- *with Australian Associated Press*

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