

STARS ON CANVAS

Unique, original artwork of our best loved cartoon characters including Dennis the Menace and Mr Men, is up for grabs in aid of national charity, the Willow Foundation, at the stars on canvas exhibition from December 2 to 6 at the SW1 Gallery, 12 Cardinal Walk, London. Hundreds of these canvases are available to view online now and will be auctioned online from November 27.

The Willow Foundation, a national charity set up by Arsenal legend Bob Wilson and his wife Megs in memory of their daughter, provides morale-boosting special days for seriously ill 16 to 40 year olds.

Illustrators and licensing companies alike have contributed an incredible selection of original artwork that is expected to raise valuable funds for the charity. Canvases of children's cartoon characters, both classic and new, include Dennis the Menace, Hana's Helpline, Bang on the Door, Little Princess, Bob the Builder, Fifi & the Flowertots, Mr Men, Basil Brush, Dangermouse, Mr Benn and many more. This artwork will be auctioned alongside canvases created by stars of TV and film, sports personalities and artists.

All two hundred canvases will be on display at the SW1 Gallery, the majority of which are to be auctioned online from November 27. The top 20 canvases will be auctioned at the gallery on December 3 from 7pm. Tickets to this champagne reception are priced at £25. The exhibition is open to the public between December 2 and 6 - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12pm to 6pm and Wednesday and Saturday from 12pm to 4pm.

The canvases are available to view online at www.willowfoundation.org.uk/starsoncanvas. To book tickets for the champagne reception, or for more information, email fundraising@willowfoundation.org.uk or telephone 01707 259777.

"Start Licensing was delighted to help the Willow Foundation. The stars on canvas project was a perfect fit for a number of our clients such as Hana's Helpline and Bang on the Door. Given the level of creative talent in the licensing field it is fantastic that the licensing community was able to get so involved in the project and from my own experience I know that people really enjoyed creating these unique canvases," said Ian Downes of Start Licensing.

To date the Willow Foundation has provided 4,000 special days nationwide to people living with cancer, cystic fibrosis, motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy, organ failure and Huntington's, amongst other conditions.

The Willow Foundation is working with respected British artist Julie-Anne Gilbert on the project.

ENDS

Notes to editors: Reporters and photographers are invited a champagne reception on December 3 from 6pm when we hope celebrities and artists who have participated in the exhibition will be attending. The exhibition is open to the public at all other times - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12pm to 6pm & Wednesday and Saturday from 12pm to 4pm.

SW1 Gallery, 12 Cardinal Walk, Roof Garden Level, Cardinal Place, London SW1E 5JE

Interviews are available any time prior to the event with Willow Foundation co-founder and Arsenal legend, Bob Wilson and artist Julie-Anne Gilbert.