



Photo: Patrick Demarchelier

DIANA  
a celebration

**29 September 07 – 4 May 08**

From the collection of Althorp Estate, the home of the Spencer family, this international exhibition traces the life story of Diana, Princess of Wales. It is a celebration of her life, her works and her legacy.

*My sister was that unique phenomenon: a glamorous humanitarian ... We are delighted that the exhibition that my family has put together at Althorp should be travelling abroad now, to reach people who may not have a chance to visit Althorp for themselves.*

— Charles, Earl Spencer

## Exhibition overview

The exhibition is divided into nine sections:

### 1. Tiara

This introductory display pays tribute to the 'People's Princess' with a stunning photographic portrait by Patrick Demarchelier and, the ultimate symbol of a princess, a tiara.

*Key objects*

A tiara from the Spencer family collection.

### 2. The Spencer Women

The Spencer family is one of Britain's aristocratic dynasties. The Spencer Earls enjoyed great wealth and power. This section is dedicated to the Spencer women who were born or married into the family.

*Key objects*

Portraits of Spencer women and family jewellery.

### 3. Childhood

The Honorable Diana Frances Spencer was born on 1 July 1961. This section chronicles Diana's youth from birth through her teen years in boarding school. Rare home movies shot by Diana's father are a highlight of this section.

*Key objects*

Diana's treasured personal possessions, including photo albums, a primary school report card and her boarding school uniform.

### 4. Engagement

Diana Frances Spencer and Prince Charles of Wales formally announced their engagement on 24 February 1981. Diana was 19 and Charles was 32.

*Key objects*

Official engagement portraits.

### 5. The Royal Wedding

On 29 July 1981, Lady Diana Spencer married HRH Prince of Wales at St Paul's Cathedral. It is estimated that over one billion people worldwide watched the wedding on television.

*Key objects*

Diana's wedding gown and its dramatic 7.5-metre train, her wedding jewellery and a bridesmaid's dress.



Royal wedding, 29 July 1981.

### 6. Her Work

Diana was a tireless charity worker using her celebrity status to campaign for the causes she believed in.

*Key objects*

Letters and speeches by Diana.

### 7. Tribute

Diana died on 31 August 1997. Her tragic death prompted a spontaneous outpouring of grief from people all around the world.

*Key objects*

The draft of Earl Spencer's tribute to Diana and the lyrics and score for Elton John's musical tribute.

### 8. Condolences

This section of the exhibition features a wall of condolence books from all over the world.

### 9. Style and fashion

Diana loved clothes; they were a passion and a public duty. The exhibition traces the evolution of her personal style through a selection of outfits from the early 1980s to her last public engagement.

*Key objects*

28 outfits by leading British and international designers including Versace, Valentino, Lacroix, Chanel, Catherine Walker and Bruce Oldfield.

## *Diana: A Celebration activity*

### Overview

This activity is designed to encourage students to think about what makes a person famous and to consider why a collection of clothing belonging to a celebrity is worth keeping.

Students will be asked to:

- Discuss what makes a person famous.
- Talk about what is valuable and worth keeping.
- Think creatively about how famous people influence society.

### Discussion

- Why would Diana's clothes be worth collecting?
- How do ordinary people become famous?
- What qualities did Diana have that are worth publicising?
- Would you like to be famous? Explain.
- Would you like your clothes to be put on display? Give reasons.
- If you could meet someone famous, who would it be? What would you talk about?
- What rules should exist to protect the privacy of people?
- Should these rules be the same for all individuals in society? If not, why not?

### Participation

As a class compile a list of famous people who have appeared in magazines, television and news programs and newspapers this year.

Describe each person in a few words and sort them into groups such as scientists, political leaders, royalty, athletes, artists, musicians and other.

Working in small groups or pairs, write a sentence or two describing what makes a person famous. Present your definition to the class.

Working in groups, select one famous person from your list and draw a concept map about his or her life. Don't worry too much about the actual details, just jot down as many facts and thoughts as you can in three minutes. Share your group's concept map with another group of students.



On a visit to Angola for the British Red Cross, 1997.

In pairs, use the ideas below to come up with a presentation about this famous person. (You can develop one idea or combine a few together.) If you need more information spend up to 30 minutes researching this person on the internet before preparing your presentation.

- Remove or modify a statement or event that was reported about him or her
- Change or reverse one important incident in her/his life
- Develop one feature or aspect of this person that might be different in the future
- Predict how this person reacts when he/she meets up with something life changing
- Use flashback to explore something significant in his or her life
- Exaggerate, rearrange or remove an event, meeting or feature of his or her life
- Combine two or three of the most interesting or important aspects of his or her life

Put the information you have gathered to another use, eg a skit, role-play, interview, sketch or article.

This activity is adapted with permission from *Behind the news* <http://www.abc.net.au/btn>



Photo: Mario Testino

Produced by Arts and Exhibitions International in association with the Althorp Estate.

Profits generated to Althorp from the exhibition are paid to the Diana, the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, a registered charity (No 1064238), subject to a minimum payment of the greater of £10,000 or 10% of the retail sale price of all products sold in Australia bearing the Diana, Princess of Wales logo.

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