



I would really like the artists to capture my smile. I don't want to see too much teeth but that is virtually impossible isn't it?

**Cilla Black** is a singer, entertainer and television presenter who has worked in show business for over forty years. She began singing at an early age and was barely out of her teens when signed by Brian Epstein. Her first audition for Epstein was inauspicious – she sang a song with The Beatles, unrehearsed and in the wrong key. Despite this setback Epstein signed her and moulded her early career.

Cilla's first single, *Love of the Loved*, was penned by Lennon and McCartney but it was Burt Bacharach and Hal David who gave Cilla her first number one hit with her second release *Anyone Who Had a Heart*. To this day the recording is still the biggest selling single of all time by a British female recording artist.

From that first success in 1964 Cilla went on to release twenty consecutive Top 40 hits, becoming a major star performing with giants such as The Beatles and Gerry and the Pacemakers before a seven-month run at the London Palladium with the likes of Tommy Cooper and Frankie Vaughn.

The legendary Bill Cotton Jr gave Cilla her first break in television in 1967, hosting *The Cilla Black Show* for the BBC. Cilla has remained a favourite with television audiences ever since, presenting ITV hits such as *Surprise Surprise* and the Saturday night phenomenon *Blind Date*. In 1993 she was awarded an OBE.

Cilla felt that her portraits each reflected a different side to her personality but, in the end, selected the work she felt was fitting to present to her new baby grandson.



# The Television Series Series

The Exhibition features the portraits from the hit BBC One television series *Star Portraits with Rolf Harris*.

The series is both a showcase for professional portrait artists and a revealing new way of profiling famous people. It's part art show, part chat show. Its first series achieved record viewing figures and a huge and loyal following.

In each programme a celebrity sits for three portrait artists at the same time. The artists have just five hours with the sitter before returning to their studios to finish their work. The celebrity doesn't get to see the portraits until they are completed.

Two weeks later artists and sitter are reunited as three very different portraits of the star are revealed.

The sitter then has to choose one portrait to keep for themselves. Will they choose the most flattering? The most honest? Or the one they think is the best painting? And what will their choice reveal about them?

*While the concept of the show seems simple, the experience for sitter, artist and viewer is both rewarding and illuminating...*

