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 **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**A LUXURY PEN FIT FOR ROCK ROYALTY**

**In the wake of the blockbuster motion picture, Bohemian Rhapsody, comes an extraordinary new luxury pen that captures the pomp and glory of Queen at their finest.**

Few great rock groups manage to survive more than a decade at the top. Invariably, the pressures of success take their toll, and the prospects of resonating with successive generations are low – especially after the loss of a charismatic frontman.

But for Queen, recent box-office success is just the latest example of a band that has continually managed to reinvent its aura – and its audience. As far as the head of Italy’s oldest fountain pen manufacturer is concerned, quality always rises to the top.

For Giuseppe Aquila, C.E.O. and Creative Director of Montegrappa, the dedication of a set of luxury pens in tribute to Queen was a passion project: “I grew up in the seventies and eighties, when it was impossible to overlook Queen’s presence. They were a force of nature, and we Italians particularly loved Freddie Mercury’s flamboyance and showmanship.” After seeing young audiences discover Queen’s music and embrace it as their own, Aquila knew the time was right to bring his company’s own creative signature to the British quartet’s legacy.

The result is Queen: A Night at the Opera – arguably one of the most opulent luxury rock artefacts ever created. It’s a project Aquila clearly sees as worthy of Queen’s pedigree as songwriters, performers and showmen – as well as a creative challenge that Montegrappa was born to meet. “Over the years we have created pens on commission for many members of royalty,” Aquila explains. “Opera and classic arts have long played a prominent role in our story, alongside collaborations with contemporary creatives like Quincy Jones and Paulo Coelho. This project with Queen’s management was an opportunity for our team to let their hair down and draw on our full repertoire.”

Made using the intricate process of lost-wax casting – an antique jeweller’s craft – owners of Queen: A Night at the Opera will grip a three-dimensional recreation of the cover art from the album that propelled Queen to global stardom. Released in 1975, A Night at the Opera was the work that not only earned the band its first platinum disc, it forever changed expectations of how rock could look and sound.

With more than a passing resemblance to Britain’s royal coat of arms, the legendary Queen Crest enveloping the pen’s barrel was designed by Mercury himself before the band had even pressed its first album. Under the wings of a phoenix, figures denoting the bandmembers’ star-signs surround a crown encircled by the letter Q. It was a sign that of the former art student’s conviction that Queen would ascend to rock aristocracy.

Besides its ostentatious barrel, the remainder of the pen is filled with references to Freddie Mercury’s iconic stage presence – from his bejewelled crown and cape down to rings designed to evoke his pyramid-studded armlet. The pocket clip is modelled on the bottomless mic Mercury would use to rule over fans in their millions. All elements of the pen have been designed in close coordination with founding bandmembers Brian May and Roger Taylor – a particular source of pride for Aquila: “It’s been a privilege to have the opportunity to work with men who played such a prominent role in my youth.”

Handmade at Montegrappa’s century-old Venetian factory, the edition’s availability also offers a nod to the A Night at the Opera’s most transcendent track: Bohemian Rhapsody. A limited production of 555 piston-fed fountain pens and rollerballs reference the song’s audacious 5:55 duration.

As is to be expected from Montegrappa, rock royalty doesn’t come cheaply, But Aquila expects connoisseurs of writing instruments and rock to line up for their own unique piece of music history: “Pens are among the most discreet accessories that aficionados can own: an intimate keepsake able to go wherever they may go.”