

**899** Steve McQueen "Michael Delaney" original hero Gulf driving suit from Le MansCurrency: **USD**Category: **Entertainment Memorabilia**

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Item Description

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Steve McQueen "Michael Delaney" original hero Gulf driving suit from **Le Mans** - (Solar Productions/Cinema Center Films, 1971) The original hero Hinchman Nomex racing suit worn by Steve McQueen as "Michael Delaney" in *Le Mans*, the most influential movie about racing ever made. The two-piece racing suit (jacket and pants) features a zipper and Velcro closure jacket with "Michael Delaney" stitched in blue thread above the right breast zipper pocket, iconic orange and blue Gulf racing stripes as well as Gulf patches on the breast and back. In addition there are United States flag, Hinchman Nomex, Heuer Chronograph and Firestone sponsor patches. It bears an internal Hinchman Indianapolis label.

When principal filming of *Le Mans* was completed, Solar Productions donated this suit to the British newspaper, *The Observer* for a special Le Mans-themed contest in 1971. By answering 3 Le Mans history questions correctly, 12 year-old Timothy Davies of Wolverhampton, England was chosen as the winner and presented with the suit by racing driver Richard "Dickie" Attwood, winner of the 1970 Le Mans race and driver of the Porsche 917K Gulf car during driving sequences in the film.

Filmed on location in Le Mans, France, the film's spellbinding cinematography provides a thrilling glimpse of the sights and sounds of Porsche 917s and Ferrari 512s, locked in fierce competition for outright victory. It featured footage from the actual 1970 24 Hours of Le Mans race and remains popular with racing enthusiasts today as it accurately depicted the era with lots of racing and minimal dialogue. The film featured numerous top-level racing drivers of the day for the driving sequences including Derek Bell, Vic Elford, Jacky Ickx, Brian Redman, Jo Siffert and many others.

The suit is in excellent condition overall exhibiting only slight yellowing at the jacket collar and light smudges from production use at the sleeves. Accompanied by a letter of provenance from Timothy Davies, whose collection the suit remained until recently, as well as a binder of provenance materials, including copies of the original *Observer* questionnaire, copies of the young Timothy Davies wearing the suit, copies of contemporary newspaper clippings of the story, etc.

Steve McQueen's legacy as "the King of Cool" has made his former vehicles, personal property and film memorabilia incredibly sought after. On August 19, 2011 the Porsche 911S driven by McQueen during the opening sequences of *Le Mans* sold for an astounding \$1,375,000 and in 2009 his personal Rolex Submariner watch sold at auction for a world-record \$234,000. Without question, one of the pinnacles of motorsport memorabilia and the Holy Grail of racing film costumes.

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26901 Agoura Rd. Suite 150,  
Calabasas Hills, CA,  
91301, United States

Phone: 310-859-7701