

# Bond Ambition

As the latest Bond film, *Quantum Of Solace*, hits cinemas DNA celebrates the men, the women, the music and the campy of it all. And can we just say, Daniel Craig... Phoawh! Feature by Myers, Matthew Myers.



In 1962 the first Bond movie *Dr No* was released upon the world and randy straight boys flocked to the cinemas to see Ursula Andress rise from the surf in a skimpy white-belted bikini. But Andress wasn't the only one sending pulses racing. On the beach with her was a handsome, brooding, hairy-chested gentleman with thick muscular arms in a blue polo top and hip-hugging denims. He was rugged yet suave, flippant yet sophisticated. Sean Connery was British agent 007 James Bond, an MI6 spy who was about to become an icon of the cinema.

First devised by author Ian Fleming, the James Bond character is in his thirties and loosely based on Sidney Reilly (*Ace Of Spies*), American composer Hoagy Carmichael and jetsetter Fleming himself.

Until Daniel Craig recently took over, Sean Connery was considered the ultimate personification of the character but there have been six actors in the role (seven if you count David Niven in the 1967 spoof, *Casino Royale*). It's a prestigious role, inviting heated debate and endless comparisons but one thing is certain – all the Bonds are hot in their own way.



### SEAN CONNERY

For Sean Connery, playing 007 was always a double-edged sword. While he was afraid of being typecast, the role ignited his successful film-acting career, which has included a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for *The Untouchables* (1987).

Born 1930 in Edinburgh, Connery was the epitome of the working-class lad. He was a labourer, footballer, body builder and even joined the navy. Bodybuilding led Connery to audition for a theatre production of *South Pacific* when the call went out for guys who looked good with their shirts off. After nabbing the role he moved on to modelling, television and movies. At first, Ian Fleming thought Connery was miscast but after the



success of *Dr No*, and witnessing Connery's obvious sex appeal, the author was so impressed he changed Bond's ancestry to make him Scottish.

Connery went on to make seven Bond films with the final dogged by controversy. There was a long-running court case surrounding the rights to the movie *Thunderball* between original writer Kevin McClory and EON Productions. McClory eventually made his movie into *Never*

*Say Never Again* (1983) and Connery (who was in partnership with McClory) signed on for his final time as the renowned spy.

The actor married Aussie actress Diane Cilento, with whom he has a son. However, the marriage ended bitterly and Cilento wrote a tell-all book.

Besides *The Untouchables*, Connery's most notable role was as Indiana Jones' father in *The Last Crusade* (1989). Both George Lucas >>

>> and Steven Spielberg wanted Connery for the role because he was the inspiration behind their franchise.

The actor has received accolades from beyond the entertainment world from the likes of Bill Clinton and, in July 2000, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. He's even had an asteroid named after him – the 13070 Seanconnery.

Last August he released his autobiography, *Being A Scot*. He is a staunch pro-Scotland supporter, campaigning for the country's independence. When George Lucas made the recent Indiana Jones movie he tried, unsuccessfully, to lure Connery into the project. "Retirement is just too much damned fun," Connery stated.

#### GEORGE LAZENBY

Born in Queanbeyan, New South Wales in 1939, Lazenby's résumé rivals 007s. He worked as a ski instructor, was in a rock band, studied martial arts and moved to London to work as a model including a stint as the Marlborough Man. At one point he was the highest paid model in the world but he also spent time as a sergeant in the Australian Army Special Forces as an instructor in unarmed combat.



He played 007 in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* in 1969, one of the more popular films, but turned down a seven-picture deal with the franchise. Consequently he's regarded as the least successful Bond, especially as his film career failed to take off. He did form a close friendship with martial arts legend Bruce Lee and signed to star in a number of his films. However, when Lee suddenly died of a cerebral edema, the planned movies were changed and Lazenby's revival never happened. At one stage he took on the role originally devised for Lee in *The Shrine Of Ultimate Bliss* (1974). To his credit, Lazenby was smart and invested wisely in real estate around the world.

He starred with soft-porn actress Sylvia Kristal in seven *Emmanuelle* movies and, even stranger, reprised the role of 007 as a parody in the *Get Smart* reunion movie *The Nude Bomb* (1980) and *The Return Of The Man From UNCLE* (1983).

Lazenby has recently been in the news due to a bitter divorce battle with his wife, tennis champion, Pam Shriver.



#### ROGER MOORE

Already known as the debonair Simon Templar from television's *The Saint*, it was only a matter of time before the charming Roger Moore took on the 007 role. In fact, Moore played Bond in a British television spoof called *Mainly Millicent* back in 1964.

Born 1927 in London, he went to university before serving in the Royal Army Service Corps and quickly rose to the position of captain. Moore claims that it was his physical appearance that earned him the stripes rather than any military leadership skills. He attended the Royal Academy Of Dramatic Art and caught the eye of gay film director Brian Desmond who cast him in *Trottie True* (1949). The actor also became a model and moved into television, scoring his famous spy role in *The Saint*, running from 1961 to 1969. Moore joined Tony Curtis for another TV series, *The Persuaders*. At this point he was the world's highest paid television actor. When Connery left, Moore was offered the role but initially knocked it back due to his TV commitments.

Finally, at age 45, he was cast as James Bond in *Live And Let Die* (1973) and followed with six more films concluding with *A View To A Kill* (1985).

Moore was regularly criticised for his wooden acting style and his Spock-like eyebrow

gestures. However, many believe he brought a knowing, tongue-in-cheek humour to the role.

Since his Bond years, he has often played bit parts and parodies including *The Saint* (1997) and *Spice World: The Movie* (1997). Moore is actively involved in charities such as UNICEF and PETA and this year released his autobiography *My Word Is My Bond*.

#### TIMOTHY DALTON

Timothy Dalton was offered the 007 role four times before accepting. Born 1944 in Colwyn Bay, Wales, he was raised in Derbyshire, joined the Air Cadets and eventually attended the Royal Academy Of Dramatic Art (RADA). He starred in many movies including *The Lion In Winter* (1968) with Katharine Hepburn.

Like Roger Moore, Dalton was also asked to take over from Connery but thought himself too young and, at the time, his greater love was theatre. Some of Dalton's other film choices were not particularly good ones: *Brenda Starr* (1989) with Brooke Shields and *Sextette* (1978) with an eighty-something Mae West. But it seemed that Bond was a role destined for the actor and in 1987 he accepted it for the hugely successful *The Living Daylights*.

Dalton was the polar opposite to the persona Moore had portrayed. He was darker, more



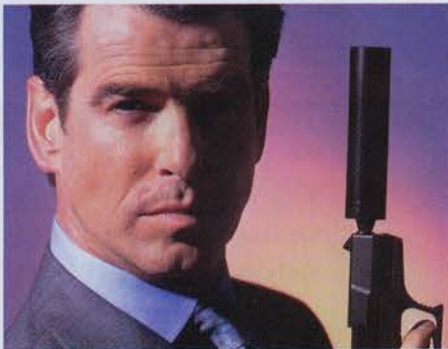
serious and in tune with Fleming's original character. His second outing as Bond in *Licence To Kill* (1989) was less successful at the box office and while intending to play Bond for a third time, he pulled out during a lengthy lawsuit between the producers and MGM Studios. After 007, Dalton consolidated his career in television

**"Judi Dench caught a glimpse of Craig changing in his trailer and declared his manhood an absolute monster!"**

mini-series. He played Rhett Butler in *Scarlett* (1994) and Julius Caesar in *Cleopatra* (1999). He also starred with Fran Drescher in *The Beautician And The Beast* (1997) and, like so many Bonds before him, parodied the character in *Looney Tunes: Back In Action* (2003). Last year he appeared in the popular indie film *Hot Fuzz*.

## PIERCE BROSNAN

Pierce Brosnan is yet another who seemed destined to play Bond. Born in 1953 in Castletown, Ireland, he was raised in West London where he joined The Drama Centre. After graduating, he moved into film and television, most notably in the hugely popular *Remington Steele* (1982–1987). With the looks, voice, charm and popularity as a TV detective, Brosnan was perfect for 007 and was approached as far back as *For Your Eyes Only* (1981). Brosnan was ready to step into Bond's shoes with the departure of Moore but was thwarted by his contract with *Remington Steele*. It wasn't until Dalton had done his stint and a legal dispute put the whole franchise on ice for six years, that Brosnan finally got to play the fifth Bond in *GoldenEye* (1995). After three more films he intended to continue but when it was announced that Brosnan would be replaced the film world was aghast. Outside 007, Brosnan has enjoyed a run of successful films including *Mrs Doubtfire* (1993), *The Tailor Of Panama* (2001) and this year's *Mamma Mia!* His Australian wife, Cassandra Harris, died of ovarian cancer in 1991, but he has since remarried, had more children, started a production company and received an OBE. He is actively involved in charities such as UNICEF Ireland, Greenpeace and supports same-sex marriage.



## DANIEL CRAIG

When it was announced that the 007 franchise would be revamped for *Casino Royale* (2006), names such as Eric Bana, Clive Owen and Hugh Jackman were thrown around. But when the relatively obscure Daniel Craig was announced as the new Bond (the first blond Bond) many critics were dubious about his credentials. Their concerns were soon allayed when the super-hunk rose from the ocean displaying huge, hairy pecs and tight blue boardshorts that displayed his "credentials" rather nicely. On top of that, fellow cast member Dame Judi Dench caught a glimpse of Craig changing in his trailer and declared his manhood an "absolute monster". Furthermore, the man has one of the hottest arses in cinema history. Craig's rugged good looks, buff body and serious character approach combined with stylish direction

and writing made *Casino Royale* the highest grossing Bond film to date. It took \$US594 million at the box office. Needless to say, it revamped the series and snared a whole new generation of fans.

For Craig, born in 1968 in Chester, England, the starring role came after appearing in such films as *Layer Cake*, *Munich* and *Road To Perdition*. *Casino Royale* made him a household name and an overnight sex symbol, which he poked fun at in a sketch on *The Catherine Tate Show* Christmas special.

But it's not just his looks that propelled him to stardom. Craig brought a new emotional depth to 007 and even earned a BAFTA nomination. The critics and Bond fans agreed that his cold, brutal, portrayal of the spy is more aligned to Fleming's original character.

In his younger days Craig played rugby and was raised on the Wirral Merseyside before joining the London National Youth Theatre. One of his earliest gigs was with the BBC playing Francis Bacon's rough trade lover in *Love Is The Devil: Study For A Portrait Of Francis Bacon* (1997). Craig not only played gay, he went full frontal. Check it out.

It came as no surprise when DNA readers voted Craig the sexiest Bond in our online poll. As if his sex appeal wasn't enough, he's also voiced his support for a gay Bond scene. "Why not?" he said. "I think in this day and age fans would accept it. I mean, look at *Doctor Who* – that has had gay scenes in it and no one blinks an eye."

Craig, who recently signed a five-film deal to play Bond up to the 25th in the series, has also raised his hand to suggest more full-frontal nudity. So "the monster" is not going anywhere just yet, boys! >>





### THE MUSIC

"Gooooold... finnnnnger... d-daaaah-da!"

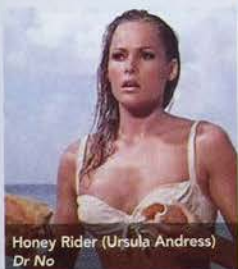
Bond themes permeate pop culture, insinuating the Bond brand in the public psyche. Like musical time capsules, the Bond hits encompass the brassy ballads of Shirley Bassey, Nancy Sinatra's swinging '60s, Wings' whitebread '70s pop, the jagged New Wave of Duran Duran, and the '90s rock of Garbage. In 2002 Madonna gave us *Die Another Day*, and Chris Cornell of Audioslave



followed with one of the best themes to date with his gritty *You Know My Name* for *Casino Royale* (2006). For *Quantum Of Solace* The White Stripes' Jack White teams up with Alicia Keys and while the reviews are mixed, the trend towards edgier Bond themes continues.

Amy Winehouse was originally commissioned to write the *Quantum Of Solace* song but was dumped. She's lashed back, saying she'll still release her song regardless. Artists such as Goldfrapp and Duffy have been rumoured to be working on future themes, and Oasis' Noel Gallagher recently claimed he had a 007 song ready to go. We can only guess at the track for the 22nd film: The Presets? The Killers? Rihanna? Kings Of Leon?

SONG	ARTIST	YEAR
<i>From Russia With Love</i>	Matt Monro	1963
<i>Goldfinger</i>	Shirley Bassey	1964
<i>Thunderball</i>	Tom Jones	1965
<i>You Only Live Twice</i>	Nancy Sinatra	1967
<i>We Have All The Time In The World</i>	Louis Armstrong	1969
<i>Diamonds Are Forever</i>	Shirley Bassey	1971
<i>Live And Let Die</i>	Paul McCartney and Wings	1973
<i>The Man With The Golden Gun</i>	Lulu	1974
<i>Nobody Does It Better</i>	Carly Simon	1977
<i>Moonraker</i>	Shirley Bassey	1979
<i>For Your Eyes Only</i>	Sheena Easton	1981
<i>All Time High</i>	Rita Coolidge	1983
<i>A View To A Kill</i>	Duran Duran	1985
<i>The Living Daylights</i>	A-Ha	1987
<i>Licence To Kill</i>	Gladys Knight	1989
<i>GoldenEye</i>	Tina Turner	1995
<i>Tomorrow Never Dies</i>	Sheryl Crow	1997
<i>The World Is Not Enough</i>	Garbage	1999
<i>Die Another Day</i>	Madonna	2002
<i>You Know My Name</i>	Chris Cornell	2006
<i>Another Way To Die</i>	Jack White and Alicia Keys	2008



Honey Rider (Ursula Andress)  
*Dr. No*



Pussy Galore (Honor Blackman)  
*Goldfinger*



Tiffany Case (Jill St. John)  
*Diamonds Are Forever*



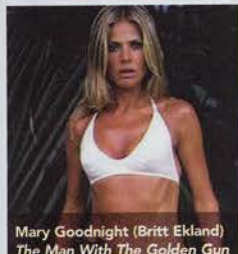
Bambi (Lola Larson)  
*Diamonds Are Forever*



Thumper (Trina Parks)  
*Diamonds Are Forever*



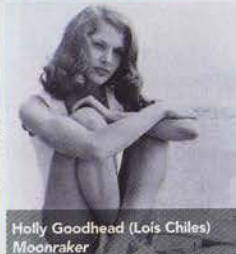
Solitaire (Jane Seymour)  
*Live And Let Die*



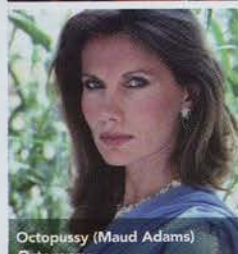
Mary Goodnight (Britt Ekland)  
*The Man With The Golden Gun*



Anya Amasova (Barbara Bach)  
*The Spy Who Loved Me*



Holly Goodhead (Lois Chiles)  
*Moonraker*



Octopussy (Maud Adams)  
*Octopussy*



May Day (Grace Jones)  
*A View To A Kill*



Xenia Onatopp (Famke Janssen)  
*GoldenEye*



Irina (Minnie Driver)  
*GoldenEye*



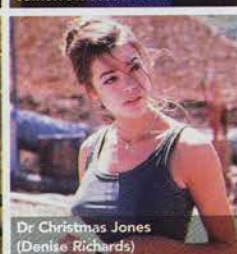
Paris Carver (Teri Hatcher)  
*Tomorrow Never Dies*



Wai Lin (Michelle Yeoh)  
*Tomorrow Never Dies*



Elektra King (Sophie Marceau)  
*The World Is Not Enough*



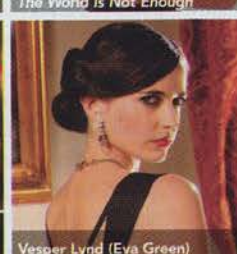
Dr. Christmas Jones (Denise Richards)  
*The World Is Not Enough*



Giacinta 'Jinx' Johnson (Halle Berry)  
*Die Another Day*



Verity (Madonna)  
*Die Another Day*



Vesper Lynd (Eva Green)  
*Casino Royale*



MI6 Agent Fields (Gemma Arterton)  
*Quantum Of Solace*



Camille (Olga Kurylenko)  
*Quantum Of Solace*

## THE WOMEN

Bond girls have often been distinguished by the less-than-subtle double-entendres of their names. In fact, some are so obvious they probably qualify as single entendre: Pussy Galore, Honey Rider and Holly Goodhead. Many sound more like drag names: Mary Goodnight, May Day and Xenia Onatopp. Mike Myers tapped into this comedy goldmine in the Austin Powers movies giving his vixens names like Alotta Vagina, Dixie Normous and Japanese twins Fuk Mi and Fuk Yu.

Ian Fleming apparently resented married life and yearned for his wild, bachelor days when women were his disposable playthings. It's clear he lived these fantasies vicariously through Bond, and while it's easy to accuse Fleming of one-dimensional misogyny, there is also a certain reverence for women in the films, and the inclusion of Judi Dench in the recurring role of M, Bond's controller, has somewhat re-dressed the initial sexism.

Fleming's Bond novels are far more explicit than the movies, and kinkier, with bondage and spanking scenes. The Bond girls are often portrayed as the victims of bad relationships with men. For instance, Tiffany Case was so named after her father dumped her mother and bought her a compact from Tiffany's, while Solitaire excluded men from her life entirely. However, once in the tender embrace of 007, all is forgotten and the ice maidens melt. Such is Bond's charm he even manages to turn lesbian Pussy Galore straight!

Names aside, some of the actresses who've graced the Bond films have brought their own special camp appeal: Diana Rigg left her groundbreaking role as Emma Peel in *The Avengers* to marry James Bond in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* (she was assassinated before the end). Jane Seymour and Teri Hatcher brought their brand of OTT glamour, Grace Jones added androgenous spark to *A View To A Kill* and even Madonna was convincing in her role as a bisexual fencing instructor in *Die Another Day*.

## BOND'S FIVE GAYEST MOMENTS

- While staying at a ski lodge in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, Bond protects his identity by implying to a bevy of adoring women that he's gay.
- In *You Only Live Twice* and subsequent films the villainous Blofeld strokes his diamond-collared Persian cat. Mike Myers tapped into the high camp of the character when he created Dr Evil in the Austin Powers films.
- At the end of *Diamonds Are Forever* henchmen Mr Kidd and Mr Wint walk off into the sunset hand-in-hand.
- Transsexual actress Tula (Caroline Cossey) was a Bond girl in *For Your Eyes Only*.
- Blofeld escapes in drag at the end of *Diamonds Are Forever*.

## RUPERT EVERETT AS A GAY BOND?

According to Rupert Everett's autobiography, *Red Carpets And Other Banana Skins*, the actor sold a gay spy screenplay idea to Hollywood heavyweights, but recently he has said he'd rather play a straight James Bond than a gay one. However, James Bond fans would burn down MGM Studios if a gay actor were cast in the role, reckons Rupert. In 2006, a gay.com poll to see who would be best cast as a gay James Bond the results were Everett by a landslide followed by Jude Law, Robert Gant and Jonathan Rhys Meyers. Of course it opens the door to endless possibilities. Bond would have to seduce hunky Russian spies to obtain top-secret information. And imagine the endless world of Bond boys – models and porn stars would be lining up for the casting call. Instead of Pussy Galore we could have Dick Aplenty! 🍌

Quantum Of Solace is released November 19. Go to [www.007.com](http://www.007.com) for more.