

Bond is back—on video

by Matthew Rainnie

As the familiar theme begins to play, a man walks rigidly across the screen, seemingly unaware of the person watching him. Suddenly he pivots, his right hand rises, and he fires his Walther

PPK, killing his assailant and kicking off another film in the James Bond series.

"My name is Bond, James Bond." This introduction has been heard by millions upon millions of moviegoers since the series began in 1962 with *Dr. No*.

Sean Connery, a 32-year-old Scot, was selected to play Ian Fleming's a British newspaper. Connery's only notable acting jobs previous to Bond had been on television, in the BBC version of *Requiem for a Heavyweight* and in *Another Time, Another Place* with Lana Turner. Bond would thrust Connery into stardom.

Connery did five more films as Bond: 1963's *From Russia with Love*, 1964's *Goldfinger*, 1965's *Thunderball*, 1967's *You Only Live Twice*, and *Diamonds are Forever* in 1971, before deciding to call it quits and pursue other interests. The Connery films did exceptionally well at the box office. *Goldfinger*, *Thunderball*, *You Only Live Twice* and *Diamonds are Forever* were all in the list of the three highest-grossing films in the years they were released. In the years between *You Only Live Twice* and *Diamonds are Forever*, two other Bond films were produced. David Niven played Bond in *Casino Royale* in 1967, and George Lazenby played the role in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, released in 1969.

Roger Moore took over for Connery in *Live and Let Die* in 1973. Moore had attained minor success in films but, up until Bond, was best known as detective Simon Templar on the televi-

sion program *The Saint*, which ran from 1963 to 1969. Moore continued in the role through six films (*The Man with the Golden Gun*, 1974; *The Spy who Loved Me*, 1977; *Moonraker*, 1979; *For Your Eyes Only*, 1981; *Octopussy*, 1982; and *A View to a Kill*, 1985).

In 1983, Sean Connery came back to play Bond, with a \$5 million paycheck as well as a percentage of the gross. The title of the film, *Never Say Never Again*, had nothing to do with the plot of the film, but with the fact that Connery was returning to the role he said he would never do again.

Roger Moore was let go from the role of Bond after *A View to a Kill*. The producers figured Moore, who was 57, was just too old to continue playing the character effectively.

A search for a man to play the new James Bond was on. Pierce Brosnan was seriously considered, but his contract with the TV series *Remington Steele* prevented him from taking the role. Timothy Dalton, an actor who had appeared in *The Lion in Winter* (1968) and as *Heathcliff in Wuthering Heights* (1970), was eventually chosen to play agent 007.

Dalton's first film as Bond, *The Living Daylights*, was released in 1987. The second, *License to Kill*, was released in the summer of


1989 and was the 14th highest-grossing film of the summer.

License to Kill has now arrived at local video stores. There is a twist in this Bond outing, because 007 quits Her Majesty's Secret Service to pursue the drug lord (sadistically played by Robert Davi) who seriously injured Bond's friend Felix Leiter and killed Felix's bride. This film contains many impressive action sequences and many beautiful women, both of which are expected from a Bond picture. Dalton seems a little more comfortable in the role than he did in his previous venture. It's also good to see Q (played by Desmond Llewellyn) in a beefed-up part and Wayne Newton, "Mr. Las Vegas", as a crooked televangelist. This, James' seventeenth film, is definitely worth a look.

If you can't get *License to Kill* at the video store, you might want to try one of the older Bond pictures. The best Sean Connery film is *Goldfinger*, with memorable performances from Gert Frobe (*Goldfinger*) and Harold Sakata (*Oddjob*). The best Roger Moore vehicle is *The Spy who Loved Me*, featuring "Mrs. Ringo Starr" Barbara Bach (Anya Amasova) and Richard Kiel (*Jaws*). So just grab some popcorn, sit back, and enjoy.

Oh, and don't forget your vodka martini, shaken . . . not stirred.

Nick Nolte Martin Short



THREE FUGITIVES

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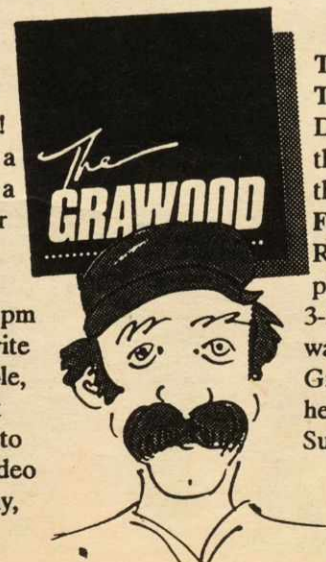
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