

Behind-the-scenes Bond



- The toughest scene to shoot was the pre-title sequence on a train track in Turkey. Two hours passed between each 20-second take.
- It is the first Bond movie granted permission to film in China.
- It took nine weeks and 250 crew to build the underground MI6 headquarters at Pinewood Studios.
- Production stopped for a year when film company MGM faced possible bankruptcy.
- It is the first Bond film where, in the production notes, the leading actresses are referred to as 'Bond women' instead of 'Bond girls'.
- It's currently the 11th biggest box office movie of all time and the UK's most successful film. More people saw it in a cinema than any other Bond film.



How Hugh Jackman saved Bond

Skyfall is the most successful 007 film ever. And, as Daniel Craig explains, it's all thanks to an Aussie...

It's taken over \$1 billion at the box office worldwide, has blown away the critics and has bagged two Oscars. Anyone who thought James Bond might be on the wane was seriously mistaken: the franchise is now stronger than at any time in its 50-year history.

What few people realise though is that the man responsible for *Skyfall*'s global domination is Hugh Jackman. Well, sort of. In October 2009, Jackman held a party at his Manhattan apartment to celebrate his birthday. Among the guests were Daniel Craig and director Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*, *Revolutionary Road*). The pair had previously worked together on the 2002 gangster flick, *Road to Perdition*.

"I was picking Sam's brains about the next Bond movie because I respect him as a director and think he has great ideas," Craig recalls. "I was talking about what I felt the future was for the series and how I was keen to do something extra special with the next one."

He admits he'd had a few cocktails by this point, which might explain what happened next. "As the conversation went on, we said the things we loved about Bond and I ended up offering him the job of directing the next film, which isn't my call," he adds, laughing. "It seemed a pretty obvious thing to do at the time."

His cheeks flush as he recalls the evening. "Well, I was drunk! So if it hadn't worked out, I could have blamed it on that..."

The next day, he sheepishly phoned Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson to explain what he'd done. Luckily, they loved the idea.

Craig and his new director then worked closely to hone and further develop Bond's character and in particular work out 007's ongoing emotional journey.

"I had an opportunity when they gave me *Casino Royale* to sort of wipe the slate clean because we were starting again," he says. "I played Bond as a soldier, a person who tried to hide his emotions and stay in control all the time. Pushing those boundaries was interesting."

Skyfall, the 23rd entry in the official series, is Craig's third stint at developing 007's character. The film revolves around cyberterrorist and former MI6 operative Silva, played to perfection by a blond, creepy Javier Bardem (who won an Oscar in 2008 for his portrayal of a villain in *No Country for Old Men*). Silva infiltrates the British Secret Service in a bid to kill Bond's boss, M (Dame Judi Dench, right), hungry for revenge after she abandoned him on a previous mission.

The movie action switches from Istanbul to Shanghai, Macau, London and the Scottish Highlands as we learn more about Bond's childhood and the events that led him



He's Bond and badass: Javier Bardem plays creepy and chilling villain, Silva

to develop his steely demeanour. Glamour comes in the form of the mysterious Severine (Berlinda Clarke Blanton) and field agent Eve (Naomie Harris).

Unlike the two previous films with Craig, Bond's famous droll humour is back with a vengeance. "Everyone always moaned, 'Where's Bond gone? Where are all the jokes?' says Craig. "I think Mike Myers ruined it for us in the Austin Powers spoofs because he took all the best Bond gags. He even took the villain with a cat on his lap!"

"I've always maintained that if we could get really good writing then the laughs would come – and they have. It was time to take the gloves off and bring the gags back."

Another theme in the movie is that Bond is, er, getting on a bit. "Well, he is!" laughs Craig, who turned 45 last month. So naturally it begs the question: how old is too old?

"I'm contracted for another two films and that seems a fair number," he says. "But I'm not going to make predictions because people need to go and see the movie and, until they do, we can't make another one."

"I'm not going to outstay my welcome. Someone else can have a crack at this!"

Watch it

Skyfall this month first on Box Office

WHY? Bond's back and better than ever in the latest 007 instalment. Sharp suits, dry wit, beautiful ladies and a bad guy – what's not to love?



Bond on Bond

To many fans he's the ultimate 007, having played the spy seven times. Here, **Roger Moore** gives his verdict on the actors who have worn the famous tuxedo

Since the first *James Bond* film - *Dr. No* - was released in 1962, the franchise has become one of the longest continually-running film series in history. To date, the films have taken over \$7.3 billion at the global box office.

"The thing with Bond is that the audience knows he's going to win," smiles Bond #3, Roger Moore. "No matter how many shells they fire at him, the bad guys aren't going to succeed - Bond will stop them. The audience knows it's not going to be disappointed."

Moore started his 007 stint in 1973's *Live and Let Die* and ended it six films later with 1985's *A View to a Kill*.

"I'm privileged to have played my small part, but it wasn't a difficult decision to hang up my tuxedo," he says. "When your leading ladies look younger than your granddaughter and holding your stomach in becomes an effort, it's time to say, 'thank you and good night'. But I do miss being Bond... as does my bank manager!"



Sean Connery

Played Bond six times from 1962 (*Dr. No*) to 1971 (*Diamonds Are Forever*) and reprised the role in 1983's *Never Say Never Again*.*

Moore says:

"Sean was impeccable. His strength was his masculinity and rugged charm. Sean was what you'd describe as a sexy beast, but I didn't find it daunting following him and George Lazenby into the role. Every actor brings their own personality to the part, so it wasn't that I had to be like him."



George Lazenby

The only Aussie to ever play Bond. He was 007 just once in 1969's *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*.

Moore says:

"George was well served by having Peter Hunt direct. Peter was an editor who had actually given Bond its style and did a very good job. It was a good cast and had lovely locations. On screen, George looked very good and he moved well, but in terms of oozing sexual chemistry, it was a bit yes and no."



Timothy Dalton

Played Bond twice: in 1987's *The Living Daylights* and then two years later in *Licence to Kill*.

Moore says:

"Timothy, out of all of us, was undoubtedly the best actor. I think that was probably what went wrong - he was acting the role instead of being it. He brought an interesting aspect to the part and had he gone on to do a third film, which would have been *GoldenEye*, then perhaps he would've become a more iconic Bond."



Pierce Brosnan

The brooding Irishman played Bond four times between 1995 and 2002, starting with *GoldenEye* and finishing with *Die Another Day*.

Moore says:

"Pierce was very smooth and very elegant. He definitely had 10 out of 10 for sex appeal and he was probably closest to my Bond in terms of giving the part a lighter touch. I like to think that it's probably because we were the only two who did a great deal of TV series."



Daniel Craig

Current Bond Daniel Craig has played 007 three times. His first film was *Casino Royale* in 2006, followed by 2008's *Quantum of Solace* and now *Skyfall*.

Moore says:

"Daniel is terrific. He's a very fine actor (and he looks sensational in swimming trunks too). We shared a dressing room once and he exudes a lot more charm than he showed on screen. I think he suppresses the charm on camera, but he has a great deal of it."

Want more Bond? Catch *Ian Fleming: Bondmaker* Tuesday, 2 April at 9pm on **The History Channel 606**, a docudrama that depicts the life story of the 007 author, including his time in naval intelligence, which inspired him to create the character of Bond.

*Unlike the majority of Bond films, *Never Say Never Again* wasn't produced by Eon Productions, the film company known for making the *James Bond* film series.