

= Daniel Craig =

Daniel Wroughton Craig (born 2 March 1968) is an English actor . Craig trained at the National Youth Theatre and graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1991 , before beginning his career on stage . His film debut was in the drama *The Power of One* (1992) . Other early appearances were in the Disney family film *A Kid in King Arthur 's Court* (1995) and the biographical film *Elizabeth* (1998) , as well as in the historical war drama television series *Sharpe 's Eagle* (1993) and the action @-@ adventure drama series *Zorro* . Cast as the fictional British secret agent James Bond in October 2005 , his first film in the role , *Casino Royale* , was released internationally in November 2006 .

Craig 's appearances in the British television film *Love Is the Devil : Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon* (1998) , the indie war film *The Trench* (1999) , and the drama *Some Voices* (2000) attracted the film industry 's attention . This led to roles in bigger productions such as the action film *Lara Croft : Tomb Raider* (2001) , the crime thriller *Road to Perdition* (2002) , the crime thriller *Layer Cake* (2004) , and the Steven Spielberg historical drama *Munich* (2005) . Craig achieved international fame when chosen as the sixth actor to play the role of Ian Fleming 's James Bond in the official film series , taking over from Pierce Brosnan in 2005 . Although his casting was initially greeted with scepticism , his debut was highly acclaimed and earned him a BAFTA award nomination , with *Casino Royale* becoming the highest @-@ grossing in the series at the time . *Quantum of Solace* followed two years later .

Craig 's third Bond film , *Skyfall* , premiered in 2012 and is currently the highest @-@ grossing film in the series , was the highest @-@ grossing film in the UK until 2015 and the twelfth @-@ highest @-@ grossing film of all time . Craig 's fourth Bond film , *Spectre* , premiered in 2015 . In 2006 , he joined the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences . Since taking the role of Bond , he has continued to star in other films , including the World War II film *Defiance* (2008) , science fiction *Western Cowboys & Aliens* (2010) , and the English @-@ language adaptation of Stieg Larsson 's mystery thriller *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2011) . Craig also made a guest appearance as Bond in the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games , alongside Queen Elizabeth II .

= = Early life = =

Craig was born in Chester , Cheshire . His mother , Carol Olivia (née Williams) , was an art teacher , and his father , Timothy John Wroughton Craig , was the landlord of the pubs *Ring o ' Bells* in Frodsham , Cheshire and the *Boot Inn* in Tarporley , Cheshire , having served as a midshipman in the Merchant Navy . Both of Craig 's parents were of part Welsh descent . He also has distant French Huguenot ancestry . Huguenot minister Daniel Chamier is among his ancestors , as is Sir William Burnaby , 1st Baronet . Craig 's middle name , Wroughton , comes from his great @-@ great @-@ grandmother Grace Matilda Wroughton .

Raised on the Wirral Peninsula , Craig attended primary school in Frodsham and Hoylake , Merseyside . Later , he attended Hilbre High School in West Kirby , Merseyside , along with his older sister Lea (born 1965) , after failing his Eleven plus . When his parents divorced , Craig and his sister lived with their mother , moving to Liverpool . Upon finishing his compulsory secondary school education at the age of 16 , he briefly joined Calday Grange Grammar School as a sixth form student . He played rugby union for Hoylake RFC .

Craig began acting in school plays at the age of six , and was introduced to serious acting by attending the Everyman Theatre in nearby Liverpool city centre with his mother . At the age of 16 , Craig was admitted to the National Youth Theatre , leaving school and moving to London , where he worked part @-@ time in restaurants to finance his training . Later on , after multiple attempts at auditioning for drama schools , he was accepted at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama at the Barbican , where he graduated in 1991 after three years of study under Colin McCormack .

= = Acting career = =

== Overview ==

In Craig 's first screen role , he played an Afrikaner in *The Power of One* in 1992 . He then appeared as Joe in the Royal National Theatre 's production of Tony Kushner 's *Angels in America* in November 1993 . Also in 1993 , Craig was featured in an episode of Yorkshire Television 's *Heartbeat* , which aired 31 October 1993 . An early starring role was as ' Geordie ' in the BBC 's 1996 drama *Our Friends in the North* , with early film roles being as Angelina Jolie 's rival and love interest in *Lara Croft : Tomb Raider* (2001) , before appearing in Sam Mendes 's movie *Road to Perdition* (2002) , with Tom Hanks and Paul Newman . Other leading film roles include *Sword of Honour* (2001) , *The Mother* (2003) with Anne Reid , *Sylvia* (2003) with Gwyneth Paltrow , *Layer Cake* (2004) with Sienna Miller , *Enduring Love* (2004) with Rhys Ifans , Steven Spielberg 's *Munich* (2005) with Eric Bana , *Infamous* and *Casino Royale* (2006) , *The Golden Compass* (2007) , *Quantum of Solace* , *Defiance* (2008) , *Cowboys & Aliens* (2011) , *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2011) , *Dream House* (2011) , *Skyfall* (2012) and *Spectre* (2015) . The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences extended a membership invitation to Craig in 2006 .

== James Bond (2005 ? present) ==

In 2005 , Craig was contacted by Eon Productions to portray James Bond . He stated he " was aware of the challenges " of the Bond franchise which he considered " a big machine that makes a lot of money " . He aimed at bringing more " emotional depth " to the character . Born in 1968 , Craig is the first actor to portray James Bond to have been born after the Bond series started , and after the death of Ian Fleming , the novels ' writer . Significant controversy followed the decision , as it was doubted if the producers had made the right choice . Throughout the entire production period internet campaigns expressed their dissatisfaction and threatened to boycott the film in protest .

The 5 @-@ foot @-@ 10 @-@ inch (178 cm) blond Craig was not considered by some protesters to fit the tall , dark Bond portrayed by the previous Bond actors , and to which viewers had apparently become accustomed . Although the choice of Craig was controversial , numerous actors publicly voiced their support , most notably , four of the five actors who had previously portrayed Bond ? Pierce Brosnan , Timothy Dalton , Sean Connery and Roger Moore ? called his casting a good decision . George Lazenby has since voiced his approval of Craig also . Clive Owen , who had been linked to the role , also spoke in defence of Craig .

The first film , *Casino Royale* , premiered 14 November 2006 , and grossed a total of US \$ 594 @,@ 239 @,@ 066 worldwide , which made it the highest @-@ grossing Bond film until the release of *Skyfall* . After the film was released , Craig 's performance was highly acclaimed . As production of *Casino Royale* reached its conclusion , producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli announced that pre @-@ production work had already begun on the 22nd Bond film .

After several months of speculation as to the release date , Wilson and Broccoli officially announced on 20 July 2006 , that the follow @-@ up film , *Quantum of Solace* , was to be released on 7 November 2008 , and that Craig would play Bond with an option for a third film . On 25 October 2007 , MGM CEO Harry Sloan revealed at the Forbes Meet II Conference that Craig had signed on to make four more Bond films , through to Bond 25 .

The planned 19 April 2010 release of Craig 's third Bond film (the 23rd overall in the series) was delayed , because of financial troubles with MGM , but the film (*Skyfall*) was released on 23 October 2012 , and was part of the year @-@ long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. No . On 8 September 2012 , Bond producers announced Craig had signed on for two future Bond films , meaning he will star as 007 in at least five films , making him the third longest @-@ serving Bond after Roger Moore who starred in seven films , and Sean Connery who starred in six . Craig 's fourth Bond film , *Spectre* , began filming in December 2014 and was released on 26 October 2015 .

Craig has described his portrayal of Bond as an anti @-@ hero : " The question I keep asking myself while playing the role is , ' Am I the good guy or just a bad guy who works for the good side ? ' Bond 's role , after all , is that of an assassin when you come down to it . I have never played a role

in which someone 's dark side shouldn 't be explored . I don 't think it should be confusing by the end of the film , but during the film you should be questioning who he is . " Craig has stated that his own favourite previous Bond actor is Sean Connery , but says , " I 'd never copy somebody else . I would never do an impression of anybody else or try and improve on what they did . That would be a pointless exercise for me . " His own favourite Bond film is From Russia with Love . On an episode of The South Bank Show , Connery divulged his thoughts on Craig 's casting as Bond , whom he described as " fantastic , marvelous in the part " . When told that Craig had taken particular note of his performances , Connery said that he was " flattered " and that Craig really gets the " danger element " to Bond 's character . Craig has remarked that Bond is " ... actually a misogynist ... A lot of women are drawn to him chiefly because he embodies a certain kind of danger and never sticks around for too long . "

= = = = Voice @-@ overs in James Bond video games = = = =

Craig lent his voice and likeness as James Bond for both the Wii game GoldenEye 007 , an enhanced remake of the 1997 game for the Nintendo 64 , and James Bond 007 : Blood Stone , an original game for Xbox 360 , PlayStation 3 , Nintendo DS , and Microsoft Windows .

= = = Other projects = = =

In 1999 , Craig starred as Richard in a TV drama called Shockers : The Visitor . He portrayed Lord Asriel in The Golden Compass , the 2007 film adaptation of Philip Pullman 's novel . Eva Green , who played Bond girl Vesper Lynd in Casino Royale , also starred in the film , although she did not appear in any scenes with Craig . In a stage version of the book , Asriel had previously been played by Timothy Dalton , one of Craig 's predecessors in the role of James Bond .

In early 2001 , Craig expressed an interest in being a part of the Star Trek franchise , professing his love of the series to the World Entertainment News Network and a desire to have a " stint in the TV show or a film . It 's been a secret ambition of mine for years . " On 16 March 2007 , Craig made a cameo appearance as himself in a sketch with Catherine Tate who appeared in the guise of her character Elaine Figgis from The Catherine Tate Show . The sketch was made for the BBC Red Nose Day 2007 fundraising programme .

In 2008 's Defiance , he played Tuvia Bielski , a Jewish resistance fighter in the forests of Belarus during World War II who saved 1 @,@ 200 people . In 2009 Del Monte Foods launched an ice pop moulded to resemble Craig emerging from the sea . He co @-@ starred with Hugh Jackman in a limited engagement of the drama A Steady Rain , on Broadway , which played from 10 September through 6 December 2009 at the Schoenfeld Theatre . His performance received praise from the New York Times , with the reviewer writing " Mr. Craig , a highly reputable stage actor in London (? Angels in America , ? ? A Number ?) before he became the screen ? s sixth James Bond , creates a more complete portrait as Joey . "

In August 2010 , Craig was cast as crusading journalist Mikael Blomkvist in David Fincher 's 2011 adaptation of Stieg Larsson 's novel The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo . In 2011 , he starred in Dream House , a psychological thriller directed by Jim Sheridan and co @-@ starring Rachel Weisz , Naomi Watts and Marton Csokas . It garnered mostly negative reviews and low box office results . Craig co @-@ starred with Harrison Ford and Olivia Wilde in Cowboys & Aliens , an American science fiction Western film , based on Scott Mitchell Rosenberg 's 2006 graphic novel of the same name .

Craig hosted the American late @-@ night live television sketch comedy Saturday Night Live on 6 October 2012 . He and his wife starred in the Broadway play titled Betrayal . It began performances in October 2013 , and continued until January 2014 . Despite mixed reviews , it grossed \$ 17 @.@ 5 million , becoming the second highest Broadway play of 2013 .

Craig was set to star in the courtroom drama The Whole Truth directed by Courtney Hunt . In April 2014 just a few days before filming was set to commence he dropped out of the project for unknown reasons replaced a month later by Keanu Reeves .

= = Personal life = =

In 1992 , Craig married actress Fiona Loudon , with whom he had a daughter , Ella . The marriage ended in divorce in 1994 .

After his divorce , he was in a seven @-@ year relationship with German actress Heike Makatsch , ending in 2001 . He subsequently dated film producer Satsuki Mitchell from 2005 until 2010 .

Craig and actress Rachel Weisz had been friends for many years , and worked together on the movie Dream House . They began dating in December 2010 and married on 22 June 2011 , in a private New York City ceremony , with four guests in attendance , including Craig 's 18 @-@ year @-@ old daughter and Weisz 's 5 @-@ year @-@ old son , Henry .

In October 2008 , Craig paid £ 4 million for an apartment in a converted old house in Primrose Hill near Regent 's Park , London . He also has a house in Sunninghill outside Ascot . He is an avid fan of Premier League football club Liverpool F.C. , as well as a rugby fan and former player , having travelled to Australia in 2013 to watch the British & Irish Lions tour .

Daniel Craig made a unique place for himself in the history of Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS fundraising 8 December 2009 , when it was announced that they had raised \$ 1 @,@ 549 @,@ 953 in the 21st annual Gypsy of the Year competition , from six weeks of curtain appeals at their hit Broadway drama , A Steady Rain .

He is involved with multiple charities including S.A.F.E Kenya , which uses street theatre to address social issues . He is also involved with the Opportunity Network , which provides access to education for low @-@ income students in New York . In 2011 , he collaborated with Dame Judi Dench to highlight gender inequality for International Women 's Day . In August 2014 , he added his name to a letter to British broadcasters calling for better representation for ethnic minorities .

In April 2015 , the United Nations appointed Craig the first global advocate for the elimination of mines and explosive hazards . The role will involve raising awareness for the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) , and political and financial support for the cause . UN Secretary @-@ General Ban Ki @-@ moon told Craig : " You have been given a licence to kill , I 'm now giving you a licence to save . "

= = Filmography = =

= = Theatre performances = =