

= James Bond =

The James Bond series focuses on a fictional British Secret Service agent created in 1953 by writer Ian Fleming , who featured him in twelve novels and two short @-@ story collections . Since Fleming 's death in 1964 , eight other authors have written authorised Bond novels or novelizations : Kingsley Amis , Christopher Wood , John Gardner , Raymond Benson , Sebastian Faulks , Jeffery Deaver , William Boyd and Anthony Horowitz . The latest novel is Trigger Mortis by Anthony Horowitz , published in September 2015 . Additionally Charlie Higson wrote a series on a young James Bond , and Kate Westbrook wrote three novels based on the diaries of a recurring series character , Moneypenny .

The character has also been adapted for television , radio , comic strip , video games and film . The films are the longest continually running and the third @-@ highest @-@ grossing film series to date , which started in 1962 with Dr. No , starring Sean Connery as Bond . As of 2016 , there have been twenty @-@ four films in the Eon Productions series . The most recent Bond film , Spectre ( 2015 ) , stars Daniel Craig in his fourth portrayal of Bond ; he is the sixth actor to play Bond in the Eon series . There have also been two independent productions of Bond films : Casino Royale ( a 1967 spoof ) and Never Say Never Again ( a 1983 remake of an earlier Eon @-@ produced film , Thunderball ) .

The Bond films are renowned for a number of features , including the musical accompaniment , with the theme songs having received Academy Award nominations on several occasions , and two wins . Other important elements which run through most of the films include Bond 's cars , his guns , and the gadgets with which he is supplied by Q Branch . The films are also noted for Bond 's relationships with various women , who are sometimes referred to as " Bond girls " .

= = Publication history = =

= = = Creation and inspiration = = =

As the central figure for his works , Ian Fleming created the fictional character of James Bond , an intelligence officer in the Secret Intelligence Service , commonly known as MI6 . Bond was also known by his code number , 007 , and was a Royal Naval Reserve Commander .

Fleming based his fictional creation on a number of individuals he came across during his time in the Naval Intelligence Division during World War II , admitting that Bond " was a compound of all the secret agents and commando types I met during the war " . Among those types were his brother , Peter , who had been involved in behind @-@ the @-@ lines operations in Norway and Greece during the war . Aside from Fleming 's brother , a number of others also provided some aspects of Bond 's make up , including Conrad O 'Brien @-@ ffrench , Patrick Dalzel @-@ Job and Bill " Biffy " Dunderdale .

The name James Bond came from that of the American ornithologist James Bond , a Caribbean bird expert and author of the definitive field guide Birds of the West Indies . Fleming , a keen birdwatcher himself , had a copy of Bond 's guide and he later explained to the ornithologist 's wife that " It struck me that this brief , unromantic , Anglo @-@ Saxon and yet very masculine name was just what I needed , and so a second James Bond was born " . He further explained that :

When I wrote the first one in 1953 , I wanted Bond to be an extremely dull , uninteresting man to whom things happened ; I wanted him to be a blunt instrument ... when I was casting around for a name for my protagonist I thought by God , ( James Bond ) is the dullest name I ever heard .

On another occasion , Fleming said : " I wanted the simplest , dullest , plainest @-@ sounding name I could find , ' James Bond ' was much better than something more interesting , like ' Peregrine Carruthers ' . Exotic things would happen to and around him , but he would be a neutral figure ? an anonymous , blunt instrument wielded by a government department . "

Fleming decided that Bond should resemble both American singer Hoagy Carmichael and himself and in Casino Royale , Vesper Lynd remarks , " Bond reminds me rather of Hoagy Carmichael , but there is something cold and ruthless . " Likewise , in Moonraker , Special Branch Officer Gala Brand

thinks that Bond is " certainly good @-@ looking ... Rather like Hoagy Carmichael in a way . That black hair falling down over the right eyebrow . Much the same bones . But there was something a bit cruel in the mouth , and the eyes were cold . "

Fleming also endowed Bond with many of his own traits , including sharing the same golf handicap , the taste for scrambled eggs and using the same brand of toiletries . Bond 's tastes are also often taken from Fleming 's own as was his behaviour , with Bond 's love of golf and gambling mirroring Fleming 's own . Fleming used his experiences of his espionage career and all other aspects of his life as inspiration when writing , including using names of school friends , acquaintances , relatives and lovers throughout his books .

It was not until the penultimate novel , *You Only Live Twice* , that Fleming gave Bond a sense of family background . The book was the first to be written after the release of *Dr. No* in cinemas and Sean Connery 's depiction of Bond affected Fleming 's interpretation of the character , to give Bond both a sense of humour and Scottish antecedents that were not present in the previous stories . In a fictional obituary , purportedly published in *The Times* , Bond 's parents were given as Andrew Bond , from the village of Glencoe , Scotland , and Monique Delacroix , from the canton of Vaud , Switzerland . Fleming did not provide Bond 's date of birth , but John Pearson 's fictional biography of Bond , *James Bond : The Authorized Biography of 007* , gives Bond a birth date on 11 November 1920 , while a study by John Griswold puts the date at 11 November 1921 .

== = Novels and related works == =

== = = Ian Fleming novels == = =

Whilst serving in the Naval Intelligence Division , Fleming had planned to become an author and had told a friend , " I am going to write the spy story to end all spy stories . " On 17 February 1952 , he began writing his first James Bond novel , *Casino Royale* at his Goldeneye estate in Jamaica , where he wrote all his Bond novels during the months of January and February each year . He started the story shortly before his wedding to his pregnant girlfriend , Ann Charteris , in order to distract himself from his forthcoming nuptials .

After completing the manuscript for *Casino Royale* , Fleming showed the manuscript to his friend ( and later editor ) William Plomer to read . Plomer liked it and submitted it to the publishers , Jonathan Cape , who did not like it as much . Cape finally published it in 1953 on the recommendation of Fleming 's older brother Peter , an established travel writer . Between 1953 and 1966 , two years after his death , twelve novels and two short @-@ story collections were published , with the last two books ? *The Man with the Golden Gun* and *Octopussy* and *The Living Daylights* ? published posthumously . All the books were published in the UK through Jonathan Cape .

== = = Post @-@ Fleming novels == = =

After Fleming 's death a continuation novel , *Colonel Sun* , was written by Kingsley Amis ( as Robert Markham ) and published in 1968 . Amis had already written a literary study of Fleming 's Bond novels in his 1965 work *The James Bond Dossier* . Although novelizations of two of the Eon Productions Bond films appeared in print , *James Bond* , *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *James Bond and Moonraker* , both written by screenwriter Christopher Wood , the series of novels did not continue until the 1980s . In 1981 the thriller writer John Gardner picked up the series with *Licence Renewed* . Gardner went on to write sixteen Bond books in total ; two of the books he wrote ? *Licence to Kill* and *GoldenEye* ? were novelizations of Eon Productions films of the same name . Gardner moved the Bond series into the 1980s , although he retained the ages of the characters as they were when Fleming had left them . In 1996 Gardner retired from writing James Bond books due to ill health .

In 1996 the American author Raymond Benson became the author of the Bond novels . Benson had previously been the author of *The James Bond Bedside Companion* , first published in 1984 .

By the time he moved on to other , non @-@ Bond related projects in 2002 , Benson had written six Bond novels , three novelizations and three short stories .

After a gap of six years , Sebastian Faulks was commissioned by Ian Fleming Publications to write a new Bond novel , which was released on 28 May 2008 , the 100th anniversary of Fleming 's birth . The book ? titled Devil May Care ? was published in the UK by Penguin Books and by Doubleday in the US . American writer Jeffery Deaver was then commissioned by Ian Fleming Publications to produce Carte Blanche , which was published on 26 May 2011 . The book updated Bond into a post @-@ 9 / 11 agent , independent of MI5 or MI6 . On 26 September 2013 Solo , written by William Boyd , was published , set in 1969 . In October 2014 it was announced that Anthony Horowitz was to write a Bond continuation novel . Set in the 1950s two weeks after the events of Goldfinger , it contains material written , but previously unreleased , by Fleming . Trigger Mortis was released on 8 September 2015 .

= = = = Young Bond = = = =

The Young Bond series of novels was started by Charlie Higson and , between 2005 and 2009 , five novels and one short story were published . The first Young Bond novel , SilverFin was also adapted and released as a graphic novel on 2 October 2008 by Puffin Books . In October 2013 Ian Fleming Publications announced that Stephen Cole would continue the series , with the first edition scheduled to be released in Autumn 2014 .

= = = = The Moneypenny Diaries = = = =

The Moneypenny Diaries are a trilogy of novels chronicling the life of Miss Moneypenny , M 's personal secretary . The novels are penned by Samantha Weinberg under the pseudonym Kate Westbrook , who is depicted as the book 's " editor " . The first instalment of the trilogy , subtitled Guardian Angel , was released on 10 October 2005 in the UK . A second volume , subtitled Secret Servant was released on 2 November 2006 in the UK , published by John Murray . A third volume , subtitled Final Fling was released on 1 May 2008 .

= = Adaptations = =

= = = Television = = =

In 1954 CBS paid Ian Fleming \$ 1 @, @ 000 ( \$ 8 @, @ 812 in 2016 dollars ) to adapt his novel Casino Royale into a one @-@ hour television adventure as part of its Climax ! series . The episode aired live on 21 October 1954 and starred Barry Nelson as " Card Sense " James Bond and Peter Lorre as Le Chiffre . The novel was adapted for American audiences to show Bond as an American agent working for " Combined Intelligence " , while the character Felix Leiter ? American in the novel ? became British onscreen and was renamed " Clarence Leiter " .

In 1973 a BBC documentary Omnibus : The British Hero featured Christopher Cazenove playing a number of such title characters ( e.g. Richard Hannay and Bulldog Drummond ) . The documentary included James Bond in dramatised scenes from Goldfinger ? notably featuring 007 being threatened with the novel 's circular saw , rather than the film 's laser beam ? and Diamonds Are Forever . In 1991 a TV cartoon series James Bond Jr. was produced with Corey Burton in the role of Bond 's nephew , also called James Bond .

= = = Radio = = =

In 1956 the novel Moonraker was adapted for broadcast on South African radio , with Bob Holness providing the voice of Bond . According to The Independent , " listeners across the Union thrilled to Bob 's cultured tones as he defeated evil master criminals in search of world domination " .

The BBC have adapted five of the Fleming novels for broadcast : in 1990 *You Only Live Twice* was adapted into a 90 @-@ minute radio play for BBC Radio 4 with Michael Jayston playing James Bond . The production was repeated a number of times between 2008 and 2011 . On 24 May 2008 BBC Radio 4 broadcast an adaptation of *Dr. No* . The actor Toby Stephens , who played Bond villain Gustav Graves in the Eon Productions version of *Die Another Day* , played Bond , while *Dr. No* was played by David Suchet . Following its success , a second story was adapted and on 3 April 2010 BBC Radio 4 broadcast *Goldfinger* with Stephens again playing Bond . Sir Ian McKellen was *Goldfinger* and Stephens ' *Die Another Day* co @-@ star Rosamund Pike played *Pussy Galore* . The play was adapted from Fleming 's novel by Archie Scottney and was directed by Martin Jarvis . In 2012 the novel *From Russia , with Love* was dramatized for Radio 4 ; it featured a full cast again starring Stephens as Bond . In May 2014 Stephens again played Bond , in *On Her Majesty 's Secret Service* , with Alfred Molina as *Blofeld* , and Joanna Lumley as *Irma Bunt* .

= = = Comics medium = = =

In 1957 the *Daily Express* approached Ian Fleming to adapt his stories into comic strips , offering him £ 1 @,@ 500 per novel and a share of takings from syndication . After initial reluctance , Fleming , who felt the strips would lack the quality of his writing , agreed . To aid the *Daily Express* in illustrating Bond , Fleming commissioned an artist to create a sketch of how he believed James Bond looked . The illustrator , John McLusky , however , felt that Fleming 's 007 looked too " outdated " and " pre @-@ war " and changed Bond to give him a more masculine look . The first strip , *Casino Royale* was published from 7 July 1958 to 13 December 1958 and was written by Anthony Hern and illustrated by John McLusky .

Most of the Bond novels and short stories have since been adapted for illustration , as well as Kingsley Amis 's *Colonel Sun* ; the works were written by Henry Gammidge or Jim Lawrence with Yaroslav Horak replacing McClusky as artist in 1966 . After the Fleming and Amis material had been adapted , original stories were produced , continuing in the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* until May 1977 .

Several comic book adaptations of the James Bond films have been published through the years : at the time of *Dr. No* 's release in October 1962 , a comic book adaptation of the screenplay , written by Norman J. Nodel , was published in Britain as part of the *Classics Illustrated* anthology series . It was later reprinted in the United States by DC Comics as part of its *Showcase* anthology series , in January 1963 . This was the first American comic book appearance of James Bond and is noteworthy for being a relatively rare example of a British comic being reprinted in a fairly high @-@ profile American comic . It was also one of the earliest comics to be censored on racial grounds ( some skin tones and dialogue were changed for the American market ) .

With the release of the 1981 film *For Your Eyes Only* , Marvel Comics published a two @-@ issue comic book adaptation of the film . When *Octopussy* was released in the cinemas in 1983 , Marvel published an accompanying comic ; Eclipse also produced a one @-@ off comic for *Licence to Kill* , although Timothy Dalton refused to allow his likeness to be used . New Bond stories were also drawn up and published from 1989 onwards through Marvel , Eclipse Comics and Dark Horse Comics .

= = = Films = = =

= = = = The Eon Productions films = = = =

In 1962 Eon Productions , the company of Canadian Harry Saltzman and American Albert R. " Cubby " Broccoli , released the first cinema adaptation of an Ian Fleming novel , *Dr. No* , featuring Sean Connery as 007 . Connery starred in a further four films before leaving the role after *You Only Live Twice* , which was taken up by George Lazenby for *On Her Majesty 's Secret Service* . Lazenby left the role after just one appearance and Connery was tempted back for his last Eon @-@

produced film *Diamonds Are Forever* .

In 1973 Roger Moore was appointed to the role of 007 for *Live and Let Die* and played Bond a further six times over twelve years before being replaced by Timothy Dalton for two films . After a six @-@ year hiatus , during which a legal wrangle threatened Eon 's productions of the Bond films , Irish actor Pierce Brosnan was cast as Bond in *GoldenEye* , released in 1995 ; he remained in the role for a total of four films , before leaving in 2002 . In 2006 , Daniel Craig was given the role of Bond for *Casino Royale* , which rebooted the series . The twenty @-@ third Eon produced film , *Skyfall* , was released on 26 October 2012 . The series has grossed almost \$ 7 billion to date , making it the third @-@ highest @-@ grossing film series ( behind *Harry Potter* and the *Marvel Cinematic Universe* ) , and the single most successful adjusted for inflation .

== == Non @-@ Eon films == ==

In 1967 *Casino Royale* was adapted into a parody Bond film starring David Niven as Sir James Bond and Ursula Andress as Vesper Lynd . Niven had been Fleming 's preference for the role of Bond . The result of a court case in the High Court in London in 1963 allowed Kevin McClory to produce a remake of *Thunderball* titled *Never Say Never Again* in 1983 . The film , produced by Jack Schwartzman 's Taliafilm production company and starring Sean Connery as Bond , was not part of the Eon series of Bond films . In 1997 the Sony Corporation acquired all or some of McClory 's rights in an undisclosed deal , which were then subsequently acquired by MGM , whilst on 4 December 1997 , MGM announced that the company had purchased the rights to *Never Say Never Again* from Taliafilm . As at 2015 Eon holds the full adaptation rights to all of Fleming 's Bond novels .

== == Music == ==

The " James Bond Theme " was written by Monty Norman and was first orchestrated by the John Barry Orchestra for 1962 's *Dr. No* , although the actual authorship of the music has been a matter of controversy for many years . In 2001 , Norman won £ 30 @,@ 000 in libel damages from the *The Sunday Times* newspaper , which suggested that Barry was entirely responsible for the composition . The theme , as written by Norman and arranged by Barry , was described by another Bond film composer , David Arnold , as " bebop @-@ swing vibe coupled with that vicious , dark , distorted electric guitar , definitely an instrument of rock ' n ' roll ... it represented everything about the character you would want : It was cocky , swaggering , confident , dark , dangerous , suggestive , sexy , unstoppable . And he did it in two minutes . " Barry composed the scores for eleven Bond films and had an uncredited contribution to *Dr. No* with his arrangement of the Bond Theme .

A Bond film staple are the theme songs heard during their title sequences sung by well @-@ known popular singers . Several of the songs produced for the films have been nominated for Academy Awards for Original Song , including Paul McCartney 's " *Live and Let Die* " , Carly Simon 's " *Nobody Does It Better* " , Sheena Easton 's " *For Your Eyes Only* " , Adele 's " *Skyfall* " , and Sam Smith 's " *Writing 's on the Wall* " . Adele won the award at the 85th Academy Awards , and Smith won at the 88th Academy Awards . For the non @-@ Eon produced *Casino Royale* , Burt Bacharach 's score included " *The Look of Love* " , which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Song .

== == Video games == ==

In 1983 the first Bond video game , developed and published by Parker Brothers , was released for the Atari 2600 , the Atari 5200 , the Atari 800 , the Commodore 64 and the ColecoVision . Since then , there have been numerous video games either based on the films or using original storylines . In 1997 the first @-@ person shooter video game *GoldenEye 007* was developed by Rare for the Nintendo 64 , based on the 1995 Pierce Brosnan film *GoldenEye* . The game received very positive reviews , won the BAFTA Interactive Entertainment Award for UK Developer of the Year in 1998 and

sold over eight million copies worldwide , grossing \$ 250 million .

In 1999 Electronic Arts acquired the licence and released Tomorrow Never Dies on 16 December 1999 . In October 2000 , they released The World Is Not Enough for the Nintendo 64 followed by 007 Racing for the PlayStation on 21 November 2000 . In 2003 , the company released James Bond 007 : Everything or Nothing , which included the likenesses and voices of Pierce Brosnan , Willem Dafoe , Heidi Klum , Judi Dench and John Cleese , amongst others . In November 2005 , Electronic Arts released a video game adaptation of 007 : From Russia with Love , which involved Sean Connery 's image and voice @-@ over for Bond . In 2006 Electronic Arts announced a game based on then @-@ upcoming film Casino Royale : the game was cancelled because it would not be ready by the film 's release in November of that year . With MGM losing revenue from lost licensing fees , the franchise was removed from EA to Activision . Activision subsequently released the 007 : Quantum of Solace game on 31 October 2008 , based on the film of the same name .

A new version of GoldenEye 007 featuring Daniel Craig was released exclusively for the Nintendo Wii and a handheld version for the Nintendo DS in November 2010 . A year later another new version was released for Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 under the title GoldenEye 007 : Reloaded . In October 2012 007 Legends was released , which featured one mission from each of the Bond actors of the Eon Productions ' series .

= = Guns , vehicles and gadgets = =

= = = Guns = = =

For the first five novels , Fleming armed Bond with a Beretta 418 until he received a letter from a thirty @-@ one @-@ year @-@ old Bond enthusiast and gun expert , Geoffrey Boothroyd , criticising Fleming 's choice of firearm for Bond , calling it " a lady 's gun ? and not a very nice lady at that ! " Boothroyd suggested that Bond should swap his Beretta for a Walther PPK 7.65mm and this exchange of arms made it to Dr. No . Boothroyd also gave Fleming advice on the Berns @-@ Martin triple draw shoulder holster and a number of the weapons used by SMERSH and other villains . In thanks , Fleming gave the MI6 Armourer in his novels the name Major Boothroyd and , in Dr. No , M introduces him to Bond as " the greatest small @-@ arms expert in the world " . Bond also used a variety of rifles , including the Savage Model 99 in " For Your Eyes Only " and a Winchester .308 target rifle in " The Living Daylights " . Other handguns used by Bond in the Fleming books included the Colt Detective Special and a long @-@ barrelled Colt .45 Army Special .

The first Bond film , Dr. No , saw M ordering Bond to leave his Beretta behind and take up the Walther PPK , which the film Bond used in eighteen films . In Tomorrow Never Dies and the two subsequent films , Bond 's main weapon was the Walther P99 semi @-@ automatic pistol .

= = = Vehicles = = =

In the early Bond stories Fleming gave Bond a battleship @-@ grey Bentley 4 ½ Litre with an Amherst Villiers supercharger . After Bond 's car was written off by Hugo Drax in Moonraker , Fleming gave Bond a Mark II Continental Bentley , which he used in the remaining books of the series . During Goldfinger , Bond was issued with an Aston Martin DB Mark III with a homing device , which he used to track Goldfinger across France . Bond returned to his Bentley for the subsequent novels .

The Bond of the films has driven a number of cars , including the Aston Martin V8 Vantage , during the 1980s , the V12 Vanquish and DBS during the 2000s , as well as the Lotus Esprit ; the BMW Z3 , BMW 750iL and the BMW Z8 . He has , however , also needed to drive a number of other vehicles , ranging from a Citroën 2CV to a Routemaster Bus , amongst others .

Bond 's most famous car is the silver grey Aston Martin DB5 , first seen in Goldfinger ; it later featured in Thunderball , GoldenEye , Tomorrow Never Dies , Casino Royale and Skyfall . The films have used a number of different Aston Martins for filming and publicity , one of which was sold in

January 2006 at an auction in the US for \$ 2 @, @ 090 @, @ 000 to an unnamed European collector .

= = = Gadgets = = =

Fleming 's novels and early screen adaptations presented minimal equipment such as the booby @-@ trapped attaché case in *From Russia with Love* , although this situation changed dramatically with the films . However , the effects of the two Eon @-@ produced Bond films *Dr. No* and *From Russia with Love* had an effect on the novel *The Man with the Golden Gun* , through the increased number of devices used in Fleming 's final story .

For the film adaptations of Bond , the pre @-@ mission briefing by Q Branch became one of the motifs that ran through the series . *Dr. No* provided no spy @-@ related gadgets , but a Geiger counter was used ; industrial designer Andy Davey observed that the first ever onscreen spy @-@ gadget was the attaché case shown in *From Russia with Love* , which he described as " a classic 007 product " . The gadgets assumed a higher profile in the 1964 film *Goldfinger* . The film 's success encouraged further espionage equipment from Q Branch to be supplied to Bond , although the increased use of technology led to an accusation that Bond was over @-@ reliant on equipment , particularly in the later films .

Davey noted that " Bond 's gizmos follow the zeitgeist more closely than any other ... nuance in the films " as they moved from the potential representations of the future in the early films , through to the brand @-@ name obsessions of the later films . It is also noticeable that , although Bond uses a number of pieces of equipment from Q Branch , including the Little Nellie autogyro , a jet pack and the exploding attaché case , the villains are also well @-@ equipped with custom @-@ made devices , including Scaramanga 's golden gun , Rosa Klebb 's poison @-@ tipped shoes , Oddjob 's steel @-@ rimmed bowler hat and Blofeld 's communication devices in his agents ' vanity case .

= = Cultural impact = =

Cinematically , Bond has been a major influence within the spy genre since the release of *Dr. No* in 1962 , with 22 secret agent films released in 1966 alone attempting to capitalise on the Bond franchise 's popularity and success . The first parody was the 1964 film *Carry On Spying* , which shows the villain Dr. Crow being overcome by agents who included James Bind ( Charles Hawtry ) and Daphne Honeybutt ( Barbara Windsor ) . One of the films that reacted against the portrayal of Bond was the Harry Palmer series , whose first film , *The Ipcress File* was released in 1965 . The eponymous hero of the series was what academic Jeremy Packer called an " anti @-@ Bond " , or what Christoph Lindner calls " the thinking man 's Bond " . The Palmer series were produced by Harry Saltzman , who also used key crew members from the Bond series , including designer Ken Adam , editor Peter R. Hunt and composer John Barry . The four " Matt Helm " films starring Dean Martin ( released between 1966 and 1969 ) , the " Flint " series starring James Coburn ( comprising two films , one each in 1966 and 1969 ) , while *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* also moved onto the cinema screen , with eight films released : all were testaments to Bond 's prominence in popular culture . More recently , the *Austin Powers* series by writer , producer and comedian Mike Myers , and other parodies such as the 2003 film *Johnny English* , have also used elements from or parodied the Bond films .

Following the release of the film *Dr. No* in 1962 , the line " Bond ... James Bond " , became a catch phrase that entered the lexicon of Western popular culture : writers Cork and Scivally said of the introduction in *Dr. No* that the " signature introduction would become the most famous and loved film line ever " . In 2001 , it was voted as the " best @-@ loved one @-@ liner in cinema " by British cinema goers , and in 2005 , it was honoured as the 22nd greatest quotation in cinema history by the American Film Institute as part of their 100 Years Series . The 2005 American Film Institute 's ' 100 Years ' series recognised the character of James Bond himself as the third greatest film hero . He was also placed at number 11 on a similar list by *Empire* and as the fifth greatest movie character of all time by *Premiere* .

The 23 James Bond films produced by Eon Productions , which have grossed \$ 4 @, @ 910 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 in box office returns alone , have made the series one of the highest @-@ grossing ever . It is estimated that since Dr. No , a quarter of the world 's population have seen at least one Bond film . The UK Film Distributors ' Association have stated that the importance of the Bond series of films to the British film industry cannot be overstated , as they " form the backbone of the industry " .

Television also saw the effect of Bond films , with the NBC series The Man from U.N.C.L.E. , which was described as the " first network television imitation " of Bond , largely because Fleming provided advice and ideas on the development of the series , even giving the main character the name Napoleon Solo . Other 1960s television series inspired by Bond include I Spy , and Get Smart .

By 2012 , James Bond had become such a symbol of the United Kingdom that the character , played by Craig , appeared in the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics as Queen Elizabeth II 's escort .

Throughout the life of the film series , a number of tie @-@ in products have been released .

#### = = Criticisms of James Bond = =

The James Bond character and related media have triggered a number of criticisms and reactions across the political spectrum , and are still highly debated in popular culture studies . Left @-@ leaning observers often accuse Bond novels and films of misogyny and sexism . Bond is also seen as a white male fantasy of the conspicuous consumption of luxury goods ( cars , clothes , houses , etc . ) and objectification of women . Geographers have considered the role of exotic locations in the movies in the dynamics of the Cold War , with power struggles among blocs playing out in the peripheral areas . Other critics claim that 21st century Bond movies reflect imperial nostalgia . American conservative critics , particularly in the 1960s and 1970s , saw Bond as a nihilistic , hedonistic , and amoral character that challenged family values .