

= A View to a Kill =

A View to a Kill (1985) is the fourteenth spy film of the James Bond series , and the seventh and last to star Roger Moore as the fictional MI6 agent James Bond . Although the title is adapted from Ian Fleming 's short story " From a View to a Kill " , the film has an entirely original screenplay . In A View to a Kill , Bond is pitted against Max Zorin , who plans to destroy California 's Silicon Valley .

The film was produced by Albert R. Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson , who also wrote the screenplay with Richard Maibaum . It was the third James Bond film to be directed by John Glen , and the last to feature Lois Maxwell as Miss Moneybags .

Despite receiving a mixed reception by critics , it was a commercial success , with the Duran Duran theme song " A View to a Kill " performing well in the charts and earning a Golden Globe nomination for Best Song . Christopher Walken was also praised for portraying a " classic Bond villain " .

= = Plot = =

MI6 agent James Bond is sent to Siberia to locate the body of 003 and recover a microchip originating from the Soviet Union . Upon his return Q analyses the microchip , establishing it to be a copy of one designed to withstand an electromagnetic pulse and made by government contractor Zorin Industries .

Bond visits Ascot Racecourse to observe the company 's owner , Max Zorin . Zorin 's horse wins a race but proves hard to control . Sir Godfrey Tibbett , a racehorse trainer and MI6 agent , believes Zorin 's horse was drugged , although tests proved negative . Through Tibbett , Bond meets with French private detective Achille Aubergine who informs Bond that Zorin is holding a horse sale later in the month . During their dinner at the Eiffel Tower , Aubergine is assassinated by Zorin 's bodyguard May Day , who subsequently escapes , despite being chased by Bond .

Bond and Tibbett travel to Zorin 's estate for the horse sale . Bond is puzzled by a woman who rebuffs him and finds out that Zorin has written her a cheque for \$ 5 million . At night , Bond and Tibbett break into Zorin 's laboratory learning that he is implanting adrenaline @-@ releasing devices in his horses . Zorin identifies Bond as an agent , has May Day assassinate Tibbett , and attempts to have Bond killed too .

General Gogol of the KGB confronts Zorin for killing Bond without permission revealing that Zorin was initially trained and financed by the KGB , but has now gone rogue . Later , Zorin unveils to a group of investors his plan to destroy Silicon Valley which will give him ? and the potential investors ? a monopoly over microchip manufacture .

Bond goes to San Francisco where he learns from CIA agent Chuck Lee that Zorin could be the product of medical experimentation with steroids performed by a Nazi scientist , now Zorin 's physician Dr. Carl Mortner . He then investigates a nearby oil rig owned by Zorin and while there finds KGB agent Pola Ivanova recording conversations and her partner placing explosives on the rig . Ivanova 's partner is caught and killed , but Ivanova and Bond escape . Later Ivanova takes the recording , but finds that Bond had switched tapes , leaving her with a recording of Japanese music . Bond tracks down the woman Zorin attempted to pay off , State Geologist Stacey Sutton , and discovers that Zorin is trying to buy her family oil business .

The two travel to San Francisco City Hall to check Zorin 's submitted plans . However , Zorin is alerted to their presence and arrives , killing the Chief Geologist with Bond 's pistol and setting fire to the building to both frame Bond for the murder and kill him at the same time . Bond and Sutton escape from the fire , but when the police try to arrest Bond , he and Sutton escape in a fire engine .

Bond and Sutton infiltrate Zorin 's mine , discovering his plot to detonate explosives beneath the lakes along the Hayward and San Andreas faults , which will cause them to flood , causing Silicon Valley and everything within to be submerged underwater forever . A larger bomb is also in the mine to destroy a " geological lock " that prevents the two faults from moving at the same time . Once in place , Zorin and his security chief Scarpine flood the mines and kill the mine workers . Sutton escapes while Bond fights May Day ; when she realises Zorin abandoned her , she helps Bond

remove the larger bomb , putting the device onto a handcar and pushing it out of the mine , where it explodes , killing her .

Zorin , who had escaped in his airship with Scarpine and Mortner , abducts Sutton as Bond grabs hold of the airship 's mooring rope . Zorin tries to knock Bond off the rope , but he manages to moor the airship to the framework of the Golden Gate Bridge . Sutton attacks Zorin and in the fracas , Mortner and Scarpine are temporarily knocked out . Sutton flees and joins Bond out on the bridge , but Zorin follows them out with an axe . The ensuing fight between Zorin and Bond culminates with Zorin falling to his death , whereupon an enraged Mortner attacks Bond using sticks of dynamite , but Bond cuts the airship free , causing Mortner to drop the dynamite in the cabin , blowing up the airship and killing himself and Scarpine . General Gogol awards Bond the Order of Lenin for foiling Zorin 's scheme .

= = Cast = =

Roger Moore as James Bond , MI6 agent 007 .

Christopher Walken as Max Zorin : a psychopathic industrialist , the product of a Nazi genetic experiment planning to destroy the Silicon Valley to gain a monopoly in the microchip market .

Tanya Roberts as Stacey Sutton : The granddaughter of an oil tycoon whose company is taken over by Zorin .

Grace Jones as May Day : Zorin 's lover and chief henchwoman . She seemingly possesses superhuman strength .

Patrick Macnee as Sir Godfrey Tibbett : Bond 's ally , a horse trainer who helps him infiltrate Zorin 's chateau and stables .

Patrick Bauchau as Scarpine : Zorin 's murderous loyal associate .

David Yip as Chuck Lee : a CIA agent who assists Bond and Sutton in San Francisco .

Willoughby Gray as Dr. Carl Mortner : formally Hans Glaub , a Nazi scientist and father figure to Zorin (in the German release version , he is a Polish communist) .

Fiona Fullerton as Pola Ivanova ; a KGB agent known to Bond , sent by Gogol to spy on Zorin .

Manning Redwood as Bob Conley : Zorin 's chief mining engineer who handles his oil interests on the East Bay .

Alison Doody as Jenny Flex : One of May Day 's assistants who is often seen with Pan Ho .

Robert Brown as M : The head of MI6

Desmond Llewelyn as Q : An MI6 officer in charge of the research and development branch . He supplies 007 with his equipment for his mission .

Lois Maxwell as Miss Moneybags : M 's secretary (Maxwell 's 14th and final appearance in the role) .

Geoffrey Keen as Fredrick Gray : The British Minister of Defence .

Walter Gotell as General Gogol : The head of the KGB .

Papillon Soo Soo as Pan Ho : One of May Day 's assistants .

Daniel Benzali as W. G. Howe : A city official working at San Francisco City Hall .

Bogdan Kominowski as Klotkoff : one of General Gogol 's KGB agents who is killed while infiltrating Zorin 's oil rig .

Dolph Lundgren in an early , minor role as Venz , one of General Gogol 's KGB agents .

Jean Rougerie as French private detective Achille Aubergine .

Maud Adams is said to be visible as an extra in one of the Fisherman 's Wharf scenes . In the DVD documentary Inside A View to a Kill , Adams explains that she was visiting her friend Moore on location and ended up in the crowd , but admits she is unable to actually see herself in the film ; in the same documentary , director John Glen confirms that Adams appears as an extra , but does not specify where she is visible . The appearance remained a mystery for years until she was identified as standing in the background during one of the Fisherman 's Wharf scenes . As a result , Adams is confirmed to have appeared in this and two other Bond films , The Man with the Golden Gun in 1974 and Octopussy in 1983 .

== Production ==

A View to a Kill was produced by Albert R. Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson . Wilson also co @-@ authored the screenplay along with Richard Maibaum . At the end of Octopussy during the " James Bond Will Return " sequence , it listed the next film as " From a View to a Kill " , the name of the original short story ; however , the title was later changed . When a company with a name similar to Zorin (the Zoran Corporation) was discovered in the United States , a disclaimer was added to the start of the film affirming that Zorin was not related to any real @-@ life company . This is the first Bond film to have a disclaimer (The Living Daylights had a disclaimer about the use of the Red Cross) .

=== Casting ===

Early publicity for the film in 1984 included an announcement that David Bowie would play Zorin . He turned it down , saying , " I didn 't want to spend five months watching my stunt double fall off cliffs . " The role was offered to Sting and finally to Christopher Walken .

Dolph Lundgren has a brief appearance as one of General Gogol 's KGB agents . Lundgren , who was dating Grace Jones at the time , was visiting her on set when one day an extra was missing so the director John Glen then asked him if he wanted to get a shot at it . Lundgren appears during the confrontation between Gogol and Zorin at the racetrack , standing several steps below Gogol .

=== Filming ===

The film was shot at Pinewood Studios in London , Iceland , Switzerland , France and the United States . Several French landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower , its Jules Verne Restaurant and the Château de Chantilly were filmed . The rest of the major filming was done at Fisherman 's Wharf and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco . The Lefty O 'Doul Bridge was featured in the fire engine chase scene . The horse racing scenes were shot at Ascot Racecourse .

Production of the film began on 23 June 1984 in Iceland , where the second unit filmed the pre @-@ title sequence . On 27 June 1984 , several leftover canisters of petrol used during filming of Ridley Scott 's Legend caused Pinewood Studios ' " 007 Stage " to burn to the ground . The stage was rebuilt , and reopened in January 1985 (renamed as " Albert R. Broccoli 's 007 Stage ") for filming of A View to a Kill . Work had continued on other stages at Pinewood when Roger Moore rejoined the main unit there on 1 August 1984 . The crew then departed for shooting the horse @-@ racing scenes at Royal Ascot Racecourse . The scene in which Bond and Sutton enter the mineshaft was then filmed in a waterlogged quarry near Staines and the Amberley Chalk Pits Museum in West Sussex .

On 6 October 1984 , the fourth unit , headed by special effects supervisor John Richardson , began its work on the climactic fight sequence . At first , only a few plates constructed to resemble the Golden Gate Bridge were used . Later that night , shooting of the burning San Francisco City Hall commenced . The first actual scenes atop the bridge were filmed on 7 October 1984 .

In Paris it was planned that two stunt men , B.J. Worth and Don Calvedt , would help film two takes of a parachute drop off a (clearly visible) platform that extended from a top edge of the Eiffel Tower . However , sufficient footage was obtained from Worth 's jump , so Calvedt was told he would not be performing his own jump . Calvedt , unhappy at not being able to perform the jump , parachuted off the tower without authorisation from the City of Paris . He was subsequently sacked by the production team for jeopardising the continuation of filming in the city .

Airship Industries managed a major marketing coup with the inclusion of their Skyship 500 series blimp in the film . At the time Airship Industries were producing a fleet of blimps which were recognisable over many capitals of the world offering tours , or advertising sponsorship deals . As all Bond films have included the most current technology , this included the lighter than air interest .

The blimp seen in the climax , was then on a promotional tour of Los Angeles after its participation in the opening ceremony of the 1984 Olympic Games . At that time , it had " WELCOME " painted

across the side of the gasbag , but was replaced by " ZORIN INDUSTRIES " for the film . During the summer of 1984 , the blimp was used to advertise Fujifilm . In real life , inflating the airship would take up to 24 hours , but during the film it was shown to take two minutes .

= = = Music = = =

The soundtrack was composed by John Barry , and published by EMI / Capitol . The theme song , " A View to a Kill " , was written by Barry and Duran Duran , and performed by the band . " May Day Jumps " is the only track that uses the James Bond theme . Barry 's composition from On Her Majesty 's Secret Service was modified for use in the songs " Snow Job " , " He 's Dangerous " and " Golden Gate Fight " of A View to a Kill . " A View to a Kill " was second in the British charts and first in the American charts , thus becoming the peak song in the James Bond series . The 2015 track Writing 's On The Wall later out performed the song in the UK by reaching number one .

Duran Duran was chosen to do the song after bassist John Taylor (a lifelong Bond fan) approached producer Cubby Broccoli at a party , and somewhat drunkenly asked " When are you going to get someone decent to do one of your theme songs ? "

During the opening sequence , a cover version of the 1965 Beach Boys song " California Girls " , performed by Gidea Park with Adrian Baker (a tribute band) , is used during a chase in which Bond snowboards ; it has been suggested that this teaser sequence helped initiate interest in snowboarding .

= = Release and reception = =

This was the first Bond film with a premiere outside the UK , opening on 22 May 1985 at San Francisco 's Palace of Fine Arts . The British premiere was held on 12 June 1985 at the Odeon Leicester Square Cinema in London . The film was first broadcast on British television on 31 January 1990 . It achieved a box office collection of US \$ 152 @. @ 4 million worldwide with \$ 50 @. @ 3 million in the United States alone . On its opening weekend in the US it earned \$ 10 @. @ 6 million . Although its box office reception was excellent , the film 's critical response was mostly negative . Rotten Tomatoes currently gives A View to a Kill a 36 % " Rotten " rating , which is the lowest rating for the Eon @-@ produced Bond films on the website .

One of the most common criticisms was that Roger Moore was 57 at the time of filming ? and had visibly aged in the two years that had passed since Octopussy . The Washington Post critic said " Moore isn 't just long in the tooth ? he 's got tusks , and what looks like an eye job has given him the pie @-@ eyed blankness of a zombie . He 's not believable anymore in the action sequences , even less so in the romantic scenes ? it 's like watching women fall all over Gabby Hayes . " Sean Connery declared that " Bond should be played by an actor 35 , 33 years old . I 'm too old . Roger 's too old , too ! " In a December 2007 interview , Roger Moore remarked , " I was only about four hundred years too old for the part . "

Moore also stated that , at the time , A View to a Kill was his least favourite Bond film , and mentioned that he was mortified to find out that he was older than his female co @-@ star 's mother . He was quoted saying " I was horrified on the last Bond I did . Whole slews of sequences where Christopher Walken was machine @-@ gunning hundreds of people . I said ' That wasn 't Bond , those weren 't Bond films . ' It stopped being what they were all about . You didn 't dwell on the blood and the brains spewing all over the place " .

Pauline Kael of The New Yorker said " The James Bond series has had its bummers , but nothing before in the class of A View to a Kill . You go to a Bond picture expecting some style or , at least , some flash , some lift ; you don 't expect the dumb police @-@ car crashes you get here . You do see some ingenious daredevil feats , but they 're crowded together and , the way they 're set up , they don 't give you the irresponsible , giddy tingle you 're hoping for . " Kael also singled out the dispirited direction and the hopeless script . " Director John Glen stages the slaughter scenes so apathetically that the picture itself seems dissociated . (I don 't think I 've ever seen another movie in which race horses were mistreated and the director failed to work up any indignation . If Glen has

any emotions about what he puts on the screen , he keeps them to himself .) " "

Lawrence O 'Toole of Maclean 's believed it was one of the series ' best entries . " Of all the modern formulas in the movie industry , the James Bond series is among the most pleasurable and durable . Lavish with their budgets , the producers also bring a great deal of craft , wit and a sense of fun to the films . Agent 007 is like an old friend whom an audience meets for drinks every two years or so ; he regales them with tall tales , winking all the time . The 14th and newest Bond epic , A View to a Kill , is an especially satisfying encounter . Opening with a breathtaking ski chase in Siberia , A View to a Kill is the fastest Bond picture yet . Its pace has the precision of a Swiss watch and the momentum of a greyhound on the track . There is a spectacular chase up and down the Eiffel Tower and through Paris streets , which Bond finishes in a severed car on just two wheels . But none of the action prepares the viewer for the heart @-@ stopping climax with Zorin 's dirigible tangled in the cables on top of San Francisco 's Golden Gate Bridge . " And although O 'Toole believed that Moore was showing his age in the role , " there are plenty of tunes left in his violin . James Bond is still a virtuoso , with a licence to thrill . " "

Brian J. Arthurs of The Beach Reporter said it was the worst film of the Bond series . C. Pea of the Time Out Film Guide said , " Grace Jones is badly wasted . " Norman Wilner of MSN chose it as the worst Bond film , while IGN picked as the fourth worst , and Entertainment Weekly as the fifth worst .

Bond historian John Brosnan believed A View to a Kill was Moore 's best Bond entry . He said Moore looked in better shape than the previous Bond film , Octopussy . Brosnan especially admired the dirigible finale .

Danny Peary had mixed feelings about A View to a Kill but was generally complimentary : " Despite what reviewers automatically reported , [Moore] looks trimmer and more energetic than in some of the previous efforts ... I wish Bond had a few more of his famous gadgets on hand , but his actions scenes are exciting and some of the stunt work is spectacular . Walken 's the first Bond villain who is not so much an evil person as a crazed neurotic . I find him more memorable than some of the more recent Bond foes ... Unfortunately , the filmmakers ? who ruined villain Jaws by making him a nice guy in Moonraker ? make the mistake of switching Mayday at the end from Bond 's nemesis to his accomplice , depriving us of a slam @-@ bang fight to the finish between the two (I suppose gentleman Bond isn 't allowed to kill women , even a monster like Mayday) ... [The film] lacks the flamboyance of earlier Bond films , and has a terrible slapstick chase sequence in San Francisco , but overall it 's fast @-@ paced , fairly enjoyable , and a worthy entry in the series . " .

Also among the more positive reviews was Movie Freaks 365 's Kyle Bell : " Good ol ' Roger gave it his best Whether you can get past the absurdity of the storyline , you can 't really deny that it has stunning stunt work and lots of action . It 's an entertaining movie that could have been better . " "

Roberts was nominated for a Golden Raspberry Award as Worst Actress , but she lost the trophy to Linda Blair for her performance in Night Patrol , Savage Island and Savage Streets .

= = Appearances in other media = =

This film was adapted into two video games in 1985 . The first , titled A View to a Kill , was published by Domark . It was available for the ZX Spectrum , Amstrad CPC , Commodore 64 , Oric 1 and Oric Atmos , and MSX . The second , titled James Bond 007 : A View to a Kill was a text @-@ based video game for DOS and Apple II computers . It was developed by Angelsoft , Inc. and published by Mindscape Inc .

The film was loosely adapted into a series of four Find Your Fate adventure game books , Win , Place , or Die , Strike it Deadly , Programmed for Danger , and Barracuda Run , which were released in 1985 .

May Day was a playable multiplayer character in the 1997 and 2000 video games GoldenEye 007 and The World Is Not Enough , for the Nintendo 64 and both N64 and PlayStation respectively . In the 2002 game Nightfire , May Day and Max Zorin also appears as bots . Other references include Nikolai Diavolo , a character in the 2004 game James Bond 007 : Everything or Nothing , claiming Zorin to be his mentor and friend . In GoldenEye : Rogue Agent , a multiplayer level is the summit of

the Golden Gate Bridge , including the Zorin blimp , which would fire on players when activated .
Players are also able to climb the suspension cables (similar to the events of the film) .