

= The Living Daylights =

The Living Daylights ( 1987 ) is the fifteenth entry in the James Bond film series and the first to star Timothy Dalton as the fictional MI6 agent James Bond . The film 's title is taken from Ian Fleming 's short story , " The Living Daylights " . It was the last film to use the title of an Ian Fleming story until the 2006 instalment Casino Royale .

The film was produced by Albert R. Broccoli , his stepson , Michael G. Wilson and his daughter , Barbara Broccoli . The Living Daylights was generally well received by most critics and was also a financial success , grossing \$ 191 @. @ 2 million worldwide .

= = Plot = =

James Bond is assigned to aid the defection of a KGB officer , General Georgi Koskov , covering his escape from a concert hall in Bratislava , Czechoslovakia during intermission . During the mission , Bond notices that the KGB sniper assigned to prevent Koskov 's escape is a female cellist from the orchestra . Disobeying his orders to kill the sniper , he instead shoots the rifle from her hands , then uses the Trans @-@ Siberian Pipeline to smuggle Koskov across the border into Austria and then on to Britain .

In his post @-@ defection debriefing , Koskov informs MI6 that the KGB 's old policy of Smiert Spionom , meaning Death to Spies , has been revived by General Leonid Pushkin , the new head of the KGB . Koskov is later abducted from the safe @-@ house and assumed to have been taken back to Moscow . Bond is directed to track down Pushkin in Tangier and kill him to forestall further killings of agents and escalation of tensions between the Soviet Union and the West . Bond agrees to carry out the mission when he learns that the assassin who killed 004 ( as depicted in the pre @-@ title sequence ) left a note bearing the same message , " Smiert Spionom " .

Bond returns to Bratislava to track down the cellist , Kara Milovy . He determines that Koskov 's entire defection was staged , and that Kara is actually Koskov 's girlfriend . Bond convinces Kara that he is a friend of Koskov 's and persuades her to accompany him to Vienna , supposedly to be reunited with him . They escape Bratislava while being pursued by the KGB , crossing over the border into Austria . Meanwhile , Pushkin meets with arms dealer Brad Whitaker in Tangier , informing him that the KGB is cancelling an arms deal previously arranged between Koskov and Whitaker .

During his brief tryst with Milovy in Vienna , Bond visits the Prater to meet his MI6 ally , Saunders , who discovers a history of financial dealings between Koskov and Whitaker . As he leaves their meeting , Saunders is killed by Koskov 's henchman Necros , who again leaves the message " Smiert Spionom " .

Bond and Kara promptly leave for Tangier , where Bond confronts Pushkin . Pushkin disavows any knowledge of " Smiert Spionom " , and reveals that Koskov is evading arrest for embezzlement of government funds . Bond and Pushkin then join forces and Bond fakes Pushkin 's assassination , inducing Whitaker and Koskov to progress with their scheme . Meanwhile , Kara contacts Koskov , who tells her that Bond is actually a KGB agent and convinces her to drug him so he can be captured .

Koskov , Necros , Kara , and the captive Bond fly to a Soviet air base in Afghanistan , where Koskov betrays Kara and imprisons her along with Bond . The pair escape and in doing so free a condemned prisoner , Kamran Shah , leader of the local Mujahideen . Bond and Milovy discover that Koskov is using Soviet funds to buy a massive shipment of opium from the Mujahideen , intending to keep the profits with enough left over to supply the Soviets with their arms and buy Western arms from Whitaker .

With the Mujahideen 's help , Bond plants a bomb aboard the cargo plane carrying the opium , but is spotted and has no choice but to barricade himself in the plane . Meanwhile , the Mujahideen attack the air base on horseback and engage the Soviets in a gun battle . During the battle , Milovy drives a jeep into the back of the plane as Bond takes off , and Necros also leaps aboard at the last second . After a struggle , Bond throws Necros to his death and deactivates the bomb . Bond then

notices Shah and his men being pursued by Soviet forces . He re @-@ activates the bomb and drops it out of the plane and onto a bridge , blowing it up and helping Shah and his men gain an important victory over the Soviets . Bond returns to Tangier to kill Whitaker , infiltrating his estate with Leiter 's help , as Pushkin arrests Koskov , sending him back to Moscow .

Some time later , Kara is the solo cellist in a London performance . Kamran Shah and his men arrive during the intermission and are introduced to now @-@ diplomat General Gogol and the Russians . After her performance , Bond surprises her in her dressing room , and they embrace .

= = Cast = =

Timothy Dalton as James Bond : an MI6 agent assigned to look into the deaths of and conspiracies against several of his allies .

Maryam d 'Abo as Kara Milovy : Koskov 's girlfriend and later Bond 's love interest .

Joe Don Baker as Brad Whitaker : An American arms dealer and self @-@ styled general . Baker called his character " a nut " who " thought he was Napoleon " .

John Rhys @-@ Davies as General Leonid Pushkin : The new head of the KGB , replacing General Gogol .

Art Malik as Kamran Shah : a leader in the Afghan Mujahideen .

Jeroen Krabbé as General Georgi Koskov : Whitaker 's ally and a renegade Soviet general .

Andreas Wisniewski as Necros : Koskov 's henchman , who poses repeated threats to Bond .

Thomas Wheatley as Saunders : Bond 's ally .

Robert Brown as M : The head of MI6 .

Desmond Llewelyn as Q : MI6 's " quartermaster " , who supplies Bond with multi @-@ purpose vehicles and gadgets useful in the latter 's mission .

Geoffrey Keen as Frederick Gray : The British Minister of Defence

Caroline Bliss as Miss Money Penny : M 's secretary .

John Terry as Felix Leiter : A CIA agent and ally to Bond .

Walter Gotell as General Gogol : The retired head of the KGB , now a diplomat shown in a cameo at the end of the film .

Virginia Hey as Rubavitch : General Leonid Pushkin 's mistress in Morocco

Julie T. Wallace as Rosika Miklos : James Bond 's contact in Bratislava , Czechoslovakia who works at the TransSiberian Pipeline .

Nadim Sawalha cameos as a police chief in Tangier . Sawalha also appeared in a previous 007 film , The Spy Who Loved Me ( 1977 ) , as Aziz Fekkesh .

= = Production = =

Originally the film was proposed to be a prequel in the series , an idea that eventually resurfaced with the reboot of the series in 2006 . SMERSH , the fictionalised Soviet counterintelligence agency that featured in Fleming 's Casino Royale and several other early James Bond novels , was an acronym for Smiert Shpionam ? " Death to spies " .

= = = Casting = = =

In Autumn 1985 , following the financial and critical disappointment of A View to a Kill , work began on scripts for the next Bond film , with the intention that Roger Moore would not reprise the role of James Bond . Moore , who by the time of the release of The Living Daylights would have been 59 years old , chose to retire from the role after 12 years and 7 films . Albert Broccoli , however , claimed that he let Moore go from the role . A significant search for a new actor to play Bond saw a number of actors , including New Zealander Sam Neill , Irish @-@ born Pierce Brosnan and Welshman Timothy Dalton audition for the role in 1986 . Bond co @-@ producer Michael G. Wilson , director John Glen , Dana and Barbara Broccoli " were impressed with Sam Neill and very much wanted to use him . " However , Albert Broccoli was not sold on the actor .

The producers eventually offered the role to Brosnan after a three @-@ day screen @-@ test . At the time , he was contracted to the television show Remington Steele which had been cancelled by the NBC network due to falling ratings . The announcement that he would be chosen to play James Bond caused a surge in interest in the series , which led to NBC exercising ( less than three days prior to expiry ) a 60 @-@ day option in Brosnan 's contract to make a further season of the show . NBC 's action caused drastic repercussions , as a result of which Albert Broccoli withdrew the offer given to Brosnan , citing that he did not want the character associated with a contemporary TV series . This led to a drop in interest in Remington Steele , and only five new episodes were filmed before the show was finally cancelled . The edict from Broccoli was that " Remington Steele will not be James Bond . "

Dana Broccoli suggested Timothy Dalton . Albert Broccoli was initially reluctant given Dalton 's public lack of interest in the role , but at his wife 's urging agreed to meet the actor . However Dalton would soon begin filming Brenda Starr and so would be unavailable . In the intervening period , having completed Brenda Starr , Dalton was offered the role once again , which he accepted . For a period , the filmmakers had Dalton , but he had not signed a contract . A casting director persuaded Robert Bathurst , an English actor who would become known for his roles in Joking Apart , Cold Feet , and Downton Abbey to audition for Bond . Bathurst believes that his " ludicrous audition " was only " an arm @-@ twisting exercise " because the producers wanted to persuade Dalton to take the role by telling him they were still auditioning other actors .

The English actress Maryam d 'Abo , who was also a former model , was cast as the Czechoslovakian cellist Kara Milovy . In 1984 , d 'Abo had attended auditions for the role of Pola Ivanova in A View to a Kill . Barbara Broccoli included d 'Abo in the audition for playing Kara , which she later passed .

Originally , the KGB general set up by Koskov was to be General Gogol ; however , Walter Gotell was too sick to handle the major role , and the character of Leonid Pushkin replaced Gogol , who appears briefly at the end of the film , having transferred to the Soviet diplomatic service . This was Gogol 's final appearance in a James Bond film . Morten Harket , the lead vocalist of the Norwegian rock group A @-@ ha ( which performed the film 's title song ) , was offered a small role as a villain 's henchman in the film , but declined , because of lack of time and because he felt they wanted to cast him due to his popularity rather than his acting .

Director John Glen decided to include the macaw from For Your Eyes Only . It can be seen squawking in the kitchen of Brayden House when Necros attacks MI6 's officers .

Other actors considered for the role of James Bond included Mel Gibson , Mark Greenstreet , Lambert Wilson , Antony Hamilton , Christopher Lambert , Finlay Light , and Andrew Clarke .

= = = Filming = = =

The film was shot at Pinewood Studios at its 007 Stage in the UK , as well as Weissensee in Austria . The pre @-@ title sequence was filmed on the Rock of Gibraltar and although the sequence shows a hijacked Land Rover careering down various sections of road for several minutes before bursting through a wall towards the sea , the location mostly used the same short stretch of road at the very top of the Rock , shot from numerous different angles . The beach defences seen at the foot of the Rock in the initial shot were also added solely for the film , to an otherwise non @-@ military area . The action involving the Land Rover switched from Gibraltar to Beachy Head in the UK for the shot showing the vehicle actually getting airborne . Trial runs of the stunt with the Land Rover , during which Bond escapes by parachute from the tumbling vehicle , were filmed in the Mojave Desert , although the final cut of the film uses a shot achieved using a dummy . Other locations included Germany , the United States , and Italy , while the desert scenes were shot in Ouarzazate , Morocco . The conclusion of the film was shot at the Schönbrunn Palace , Vienna and Elveden Hall , Suffolk .

Principal photography commenced at Gibraltar on 17 September 1986 . Aerial stuntmen B. J. Worth and Jake Lombard performed the pre @-@ credits parachute jump . Both the terrain and wind were unfavourable . Consideration was given to the stunt being done using cranes but aerial stunts

arranger B. J. Worth stuck to skydiving and completed the scenes in a day . The aircraft used for the jump was a C @-@ 130 Hercules , which in the film had M 's office installed in the aircraft cabin . The initial point of view for the scene shows M in what appears to be his usual London office , but the camera then zooms out to reveal that it is , in fact , inside an aircraft . Although marked as a Royal Air Force aircraft , the one in shot belonged to the Spanish Air Force and was used again later in the film for the Afghanistan sequences , this time in " Russian " markings . During this later chapter , a fight breaks out on the open ramp of the aircraft in flight between Bond and Necros , before Necros falls to his death . Although the plot and preceding shots suggest the aircraft is a C @-@ 130 , the shot of Necros falling away from the aircraft show a twin engine cargo plane , a C @-@ 123 Provider . Worth and Lombard also doubled for Bond and Necros in the scenes where they are hanging on a bag in a plane 's open cargo door .

The press would not meet Dalton and d 'Abo until 5 October 1986 , when the main unit travelled to Vienna . Almost two weeks after the second unit filming on Gibraltar , the first unit started shooting with Andreas Wisniewski and stunt man Bill Weston . During the course of the three days it took to film this fight , Weston fractured a finger and Wisniewski knocked him out once . The next day found the crew on location at Stonor House , doubling for Bladen 's Safe House , the first scene Jeroen Krabbé filmed .

= = = = The return of Aston Martin = = = =

The film reunites Bond with the car maker Aston Martin . Following Bond 's use of the Aston Martin DBS in On Her Majesty 's Secret Service , the filmmakers then turned to the brand new Lotus Esprit in 1977 's The Spy Who Loved Me , which reappeared four years later in For Your Eyes Only . Despite the iconic status of the submersible Lotus however , Bond 's Aston Martin DB5 is recognised as the most famous of his vehicles . As a consequence , Aston Martin returned with their V8 Vantage .

Two different Aston Martin models were used in filming ? a V8 Volante convertible , and later for the Czechoslovakia scenes , a hard @-@ top non @-@ Volante V8 saloon badged to look like the Volante . The Volante was a production model owned by Aston Martin Lagonda chairman , Victor Gauntlett .

= = = Music = = =

The Living Daylights was the final Bond film to be scored by composer John Barry . The soundtrack is notable for its introduction of sequenced electronic rhythm tracks overdubbed with the orchestra ? at the time , a relatively new innovation .

The title song of the film , " The Living Daylights " , was co @-@ written with Paul Waaktaar @-@ Savoy of the Norwegian pop @-@ music group A @-@ ha and recorded by the band . The group and Barry did not collaborate well , resulting in two versions of the theme song . Barry 's film mix is heard on the soundtrack ( and on A @-@ ha 's later greatest hits album Headlines and Deadlines ) . The version preferred by the band can be heard on the 1988 A @-@ ha album Stay on These Roads . However , in 2006 Paul Waaktaar @-@ Savoy complimented Barry 's contributions : " I loved the stuff he added to the track , I mean it gave it this really cool string arrangement . That 's when for me it started to sound like a Bond thing " . The title song is one of the few 007 title songs that is not performed or written by a British or American performer .

In a departure from previous Bond films , The Living Daylights was the first to use different songs over the opening and end credits . The song heard over the end credits , " If There Was a Man " , was one of two songs performed for the film by Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders . The other song , " Where Has Everybody Gone " , is heard from Necros 's Walkman in the film . The Pretenders were originally considered to perform Daylights ' title song . However , the producers had been pleased with the commercial success of Duran Duran 's " A View to a Kill " , and felt that A @-@ ha would be more likely to make an impact on the charts .

The original soundtrack release was released on LP and CD by Warner Bros. and featured only 12

tracks . Later re @-@ releases by Rykodisc and EMI added nine additional tracks , including alternate instrumental end credits music . Rykodisc 's version included the gunbarrel and opening sequence of the film as well as the jailbreak sequence , and the bombing of the bridge .

Additionally , the film featured a number of pieces of classical music , as the main Bond girl , Kara Milovy , is a cellist . Mozart 's 40th Symphony in G minor ( 1st movement ) is performed by the orchestra at the Conservatoire in Bratislava when Koskov flees . As Moneypenny tells Bond , Kara is next to perform Alexander Borodin 's String Quartet in D major , and the finale to Act II of Mozart 's The Marriage of Figaro ( in Vienna ) also features . Before Bond is drugged by Kara , Kara is practising the Cello solo from the first movement of Dvořák 's cello concerto in B minor . At the end of the film , Kara and an orchestra ( conducted onscreen by John Barry ) perform Tchaikovsky 's Rococo Variations to rapturous applause .

= = Release and reception = =

The Prince and Princess of Wales attended the film 's premiere on 27 June 1987 at the Odeon Leicester Square in London . The Living Daylights grossed the equivalent of \$ 191 @. @ 2 million worldwide . In the United States it earned \$ 51 @, @ 185 @, @ 000 , including an opening weekend of \$ 11 @, @ 051 @, @ 284 , surpassing the \$ 5 million grossed by The Lost Boys that was released on the same day .

In the film , Koskov and Whitaker repeatedly use vehicles and drug packets marked with the Red Cross . This action angered a number of Red Cross Societies , which sent letters of protest regarding the film . In addition , the British Red Cross attempted to prosecute the filmmakers and distributors . However , no legal action was taken . As a result , a disclaimer was added at the start of the film and some DVD releases .

The Living Daylights has a " Fresh " score of 70 % on Rotten Tomatoes based on 50 reviews . IGN lauded the film for bringing back realism and espionage to the film series , and showing James Bond 's dark side . Many , including John J. Puccio and Chuck O 'Leary , praised Timothy Dalton 's performance and his performing most of the stunts himself . The Washington Post even said Dalton developed " the best Bond ever . " Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times criticised the lack of humour in the protagonist , however , while Jay Scott of The Globe and Mail wrote of Dalton 's Bond that " you get the feeling that on his off nights , he might curl up with the Reader 's Digest and catch an episode of Moonlighting " .