

= James Bond filmography =

Commander James Bond RN ? code number 007 ? is a fictional character created by the British journalist and novelist Ian Fleming in 1952 . The character appeared in a series of twelve novels and two short story collections written by Fleming and a number of continuation novels and spin @-@ off works after Fleming 's death in 1964 . Seven actors have played Bond in 26 films .

Fleming portrayed Bond as a tall , athletic , handsome secret agent in his thirties or forties ; he has several vices including drinking , smoking , gambling , automobiles and women . He is an exceptional marksman , and skilled in unarmed combat , skiing , swimming and golf . While Bond kills without hesitation or regret , he usually kills only when carrying out orders , while acting in self @-@ defence and occasionally as revenge .

American actor Barry Nelson was the first to portray Bond on screen , in a 1954 television adaptation , " Casino Royale " . In 1961 Eon Productions began work on Dr. No , an adaptation of the novel of the same name . The result was a film that began a series of 24 films that celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2012 . After considering the likes of " refined " English actors such as Cary Grant and David Niven , the producers cast Sean Connery as Bond in the film . Fleming was appalled at the selection of the uncouth , 31 @-@ year @-@ old Scottish actor , considering him to be the antithesis of his character . However , Connery 's physical prowess and sexual magnetism in the role came to be closely identified with the character , with Fleming ultimately changing his view on Connery and incorporating aspects of his portrayal into the books .

Following Connery 's portrayal , David Niven , George Lazenby , Roger Moore , Timothy Dalton , Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig have assumed the role in twenty @-@ six feature film productions . These screen versions have retained many traits from Fleming 's depiction , although some of Bond 's less fashionable attitudes have been dropped , such as racism , homophobia , retaining the services of a maid , and in the more recent films , smoking . Despite playing the same character , there have been notable differences among the portrayals . Daniel Craig is the incumbent Bond in the long @-@ running Eon series , and played the part for a fourth time in the latest film , Spectre , released in October 2015 .

= = Fleming 's literary characterisation = =

A Secret Service agent , Bond was a composite based on a number of commandos whom author Ian Fleming had known during his service in the Naval Intelligence Division during World War II , to whom he added his own style and a number of his own tastes . Fleming appropriated the name from American ornithologist James Bond . Bond 's code number 007 comes from one of British naval intelligence 's key achievements of World War I : the breaking of the German diplomatic code . One of the German documents cracked and read by the British was the Zimmermann Telegram , which was coded 0075 , and which was one of the factors that led the US entering the war . Subsequently if material was graded 00 it meant it was highly classified . Fleming later told a journalist , " When I was at the Admiralty ... all the top @-@ secret signals had the double @-@ 0 prefix ... and I decided to borrow it for Bond " .

Although James Bond is in his mid @-@ to @-@ late thirties , he does not age in Fleming 's stories . Fleming biographer Andrew Lycett noted that , " within the first few pages [ of Casino Royale ] Ian had introduced most of Bond 's idiosyncrasies and trademarks " , which included his looks , his Bentley and his smoking and drinking habits : Bond 's penchant for alcohol runs throughout the series of books and he smokes up to 70 cigarettes a day .

Fleming decided to underplay Bond 's character , observing that " Exotic things would happen to and around him , but he would be a neutral figure " . On another occasion , he reinforced his point , saying , " 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 " .

= = Films = =

== Sean Connery : 1962 ? 67 , 71 and 83 ==

Sean Connery was the first actor to portray Bond on film in Dr. No ( 1962 ) . An amateur bodybuilder , he had come to the attention of the Bond film producers after several appearances in British films from the late 1950s . At a muscular 6 ' 2 " , Fleming originally disapproved of his casting as James Bond , believing him to be an overgrown stuntman who lacked the finesse and elegance to play James Bond ; he envisaged a suave actor , such as David Niven playing the role . Producer Albert R. Broccoli ? known to all as Cubby ? disagreed with Fleming 's view , later commenting that " I wanted a ballsy guy ... put a bit of veneer over that tough Scottish hide and you 've got Fleming 's Bond instead of all the mincing poofs we had applying for the job " . Eon 's choice of Connery was also based on his looks and sex appeal , an appeal that would later be echoed by Honor Blackman who said , after appearing with Connery in Goldfinger , " He was exceedingly handsome , virile and sexy and that really was the tenor of what the script was always trying to display " . After Connery was chosen , director Terence Young took the actor to his tailor and hairdresser , and introduced him to the high life , restaurants , casinos and women of London . In the words of Bond writer Raymond Benson , Young educated the actor " in the ways of being dapper , witty , and above all , cool " .

Connery 's interpretation of the character differed considerably from Fleming 's , being more promiscuous and cold blooded than the literary version . Connery described Bond as " a complete sensualist ? senses highly tuned , awake to everything , quite amoral . I particularly like him because he thrives on conflict " . Academic James Chapman observed that for Dr. No , Connery 's interpretation of the character , although not complete , showed the actor " should be credited with having established a new style of performance : a British screen hero in the manner of an American leading man " . In his second film , From Russia with Love , Connery looked less nervous and edgy ; he gave " a relaxed , wry performance of subtle wit and style " . Pfeiffer and Worrall noted that Connery " personified James Bond with such perfection that even Ian Fleming ... admitted that it was difficult imagining anyone else in the part " ; academic Jeremy Black agreed and declared that " Connery made the role his own and created the Bond audience for the cinema " . Black also observed that Connery gave the character a " spare , pared @-@ down character ... [ with ] inner bleakness along with the style " . Connery played Bond with " the right mix of cool charisma , violence and arrogance ... against which all others are judged " . Raymond Benson perceived that Connery " embodies a ruggedness and an intense screen presence this transcends any preconceived notions about the character " . Benson also noted that Bond was witty , but contains " an assured toughness that epitomises the machismo male " . Roger Moore agreed with Black and Benson , commenting that " Sean was Bond . He created Bond . He embodied Bond and because of Sean , Bond became an instantly recognisable character the world over ? he was rough , tough , mean and witty ... he was a bloody good 007 " . However , despite his charm and virility , Connery was characteristically laconic in his delivery . Christopher Bray says of him that " in his single @-@ minded , laconic , mocking , self @-@ sufficient vanity , Connery 's Bond was the epitome of sixties consumer culture " .

Interviewed by Oriana Fallaci in 1965 , Connery identified where he had altered the character for the films , saying " I said to the producers that the character had one defect , there was no humor about him ; to get him accepted , they 'd have to let me play him tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek , so people could laugh . They agreed , and there you are : today Bond is accepted to such an extent that even philosophers take the trouble to analyze him , even intellectuals enjoy defending him or attacking him . And even while they 're laughing at him , people take him terribly seriously " . Connery went on to add that " Bond is important : this invincible superman that every man would like to copy , that every woman would like to conquer , this dream we all have of survival . And then one can 't help liking him " . After the pressures of five films in six years , Connery left the role after the 1967 film You Only Live Twice saying , " It became a terrible pressure , like living in a goldfish bowl ... that was part of the reason I wanted to be finished with Bond . Also I had become completely identified with it , and it became very wearing and very boring " .

After a hiatus of one film ? On Her Majesty 's Secret Service , in which George Lazenby played Bond ? Connery returned to the role for Diamonds Are Forever after David Picker , the head of United Artists , made it clear that Connery was to be enticed back to the role and that money was no object . When approached about resuming the role of Bond , Connery demanded ? and received ? a fee of £ 1 @. @ 25 million ( £ 24 million in 2016 pounds ) , 12 @. @ 5 % of the gross profits and , as a further enticement , United Artists offered to back two films of his choice . His performance received mixed reviews , with Raymond Benson considering that Connery " looks weary and bored ... he is overweight , slow @- @ moving , and doesn 't seem to be trying to create a credible character " . Despite that , Benson considers that Connery " still radiates more screen presence than Roger Moore or George Lazenby " . On the other hand , Pauline Kael said " Connery 's James Bond is less lecherous than before and less foppish ? and he 's better this way " .

In the early 1980s producer Jack Schwartzman moved ahead with a non @- @ Eon Bond film , following the controversy over the 1961 novel Thunderball and the subsequent long legal battle ; the result was Never Say Never Again . Connery accepted an offer to play Bond once more , asking for ( and receiving ) a fee of \$ 3 million ( \$ 7 million in 2016 dollars ) , a percentage of the profits , as well as casting , director and script approval . The script has several references to Bond 's advancing years ? playing on Connery being 52 at the time of filming . David Robinson , reviewing the film for The Times considered that , " Connery ... is back , looking hardly a day older or thicker , and still outclassing every other exponent of the role , in the goodnatured throwaway with which he parries all the sex and violence on the way " . In 2003 Bond , as portrayed by Connery , was selected as the third @- @ greatest hero in cinema history by the American Film Institute .

== = David Niven : 1967 == =

When Sean Connery had been cast in November 1961 , David Niven had been Fleming 's choice for the role as the actor reflected his image of the character . In 1965 producer Charles Feldman signed Niven to play Sir James Bond for Casino Royale , a film not made by Eon Productions . Connery and Peter Sellers had both turned down the role . Niven was 56 when he played Bond and his characterisation was that of an elderly man who had won the Victoria Cross at the Siege of Mafeking , had a daughter by his lover , the spy Mata Hari , played Claude Debussy on the piano , ate royal jelly and cultivated black roses . The concept of Bond is that once Niven 's Bond retired , his name and 007 designation was passed to another agent to keep the legend alive ; James Chapman notes that the implication was that the " other Bond " was that played by Connery .

Chapman considered the concept of an elderly Bond to be an interesting one , with Bond referring to Connery 's Bond as a " sexual acrobat who leaves a trail of beautiful dead women behind like blown roses " . In line with the literary Bond , Niven 's character drives a vintage Bentley , rather than the Aston Martin favoured by Connery . Bond scholar Steven Jay Rubin thought Niven perfectly cast as the retired Bond , and saw him as " a throw @- @ back to the hell @- @ for @- @ leather adventure heroes " of the character , which paralleled Niven 's own life and career . Barnes and Hearn describe this as a " perfectly fair interpretation " , given the way Niven approached the role , while Raymond Benson thinks casting Niven was " intelligent " . Jeremy Black questioned the use of Niven in the role , observing that he did not seem to be a killer , and did not have the " disconcerting edge " that Connery had .

== = George Lazenby : 1969 == =

With the departure of Connery after You Only Live Twice , Broccoli and director Peter R. Hunt chose Australian George Lazenby to play the role of Bond . He first came to their attention after seeing him in a Fry 's Chocolate Cream advertisement . Lazenby dressed the part by sporting several sartorial Bond elements such as a Rolex Submariner wristwatch and a Savile Row suit ( ordered , but uncollected , by Connery ) , and going to Connery 's barber at the Dorchester Hotel . Lazenby consolidated his claim during a screen test , when he accidentally punched a professional wrestler , who was acting as stunt coordinator , in the face , impressing Broccoli with his ability to

display aggression . Lazenby never signed a contract , with negotiations dragging on during production , and he was subsequently convinced by his agent Ronan O 'Rahilly that the secret agent would be archaic in the liberated 1970s ; as a result he left the role before the release of On Her Majesty 's Secret Service in 1969 . For his performance as Bond , Lazenby was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for New Star of the Year ? Actor at the 27th Golden Globe Awards .

Critical opinion was split about Lazenby ; he has been considered to have been the worst Bond , and has variously been described as " laconic and humourless " , " a little stiff " and " annoying and smug " . Derek Malcolm of The Guardian was dismissive of Lazenby 's performance , saying that he " is not a good actor and though I never thought Sean Connery was all that stylish either , there are moments when one yearns for a little of his louche panache " . The New York Times critic AH Weiler also weighed in against Lazenby , saying that " Lazenby , if not a spurious Bond , is merely a casual , pleasant , satisfactory replacement " . Pauline Kael called Lazenby " quite a dull fellow " in her otherwise positive review in The New Yorker . However , Peter R. Hunt , director of On Her Majesty 's Secret Service , stated that Lazenby should have undertaken more films in the role , saying " he would have made a very credible Bond and been very good indeed " .

Smith and Lavington consider that Lazenby " had chosen to play Bond the same way as Sean Connery had , with perhaps more humility and humanity " ; they went on to say that " Lazenby 's inexperience rarely shows " in the film , and that " he invariably rises to the occasion " . Alexander Walker in the London Evening Standard said that , " The truth is that George Lazenby is almost as good a James Bond as the man referred to in his film as ' the other fellow ' . Lazenby 's voice is more suave than sexy @-@ sinister and he could pass for the other fellow 's twin on the shady side of the casino . Bond is now definitely all set for the Seventies " . Judith Crist of New York Magazine commented that , " This time around there 's less suavity and a no @-@ nonsense muscularity and maleness to the role via the handsome Mr. Lazenby " . Feminist film critic Molly Haskell wrote an approving review in the Village Voice : " Lazenby ... seems more comfortable in a wet tuxedo than a dry martini , more at ease as a donnish genealogist than reading ( or playing ) Playboy , and who actually dares to think that one woman who is his equal is better than a thousand part @-@ time playmates " .

James Chapman considers that Lazenby looks the part of Bond , identifying his athleticism and " arrogant swagger " , which " convey the snobbery of the character " . Chapman also distinguished a more vulnerable and human characterisation in Bond ? feeling exhausted and falling in love ? as opposed to the " heroic superman " of Connery . Brian Fairbanks noted that " OHMSS gives us a James Bond capable of vulnerability , a man who can show fear and is not immune to heartbreak . Lazenby is that man , and his performance is superb " . Ben Macintyre also observed that of all the Bonds , Lazenby 's characterisation was closest to that of Fleming 's original character .

= = = Roger Moore : 1973 ? 85 = = =

After Diamonds Are Forever , Broccoli and Saltzman tried to convince Sean Connery to return as Bond , but he declined . After considering Jeremy Brett , Michael Billington and Julian Glover , the two producers finally turned to Roger Moore , who they had previously discussed for On Her Majesty 's Secret Service , but who had been unavailable , and he was ultimately cast to play Bond in Live and Let Die . At the time Moore was an established television actor , known for his performances as Simon Templar in The Saint and Lord Brett Sinclair in The Persuaders ! : in both of which he played a " charming , debonair , international playboy " . When playing Bond , Moore tried not to imitate either Connery or his previous roles , and screenwriter Tom Mankiewicz fitted the screenplay around Moore 's persona by giving more comedy scenes and a light @-@ hearted feel to Bond , an approach that led Raymond Benson to describe Moore 's Bond as " a rather smarmy , eyebrow @-@ raising international playboy who never seemed to get hurt " .

Film writer Andrew Spicer considered Roger Moore to be the most elegant and mannerly of the Bonds , with the voice and style of an English debonair country gentleman . Benson agreed , stating that Moore was , " too nice and well @-@ mannered to be a James Bond of any real substance " , while Doug Pratt said that " the writers worked out an amenable personality for Roger Moore and

found a breezy balance between comedy and action " . To make Moore 's character appear tougher , a Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum ? which at the time was associated with the macho image of the Clint Eastwood character , Dirty Harry ? was chosen for Moore to use in Live and Let Die rather than Bond 's usual choice of Walther PPK .

Spicer says " Roger Moore re @-@ created Bond as an old @-@ style debonair hero , more polished and sophisticated than Connery 's incarnation , using the mocking insouciance he had perfected in his role as Simon Templar ... Moore 's humour was a throwaway , and certainly in the later films , verged on self @-@ parody . It was an essential strand in the increasingly tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek direction of the series which became more light @-@ hearted , knowing and playfully intertextual " . Chapman noted that Moore was the most comedic of the Bonds , with a more light @-@ hearted approach to playing the character with a mocking wit and innuendo . Additionally , Moore 's one @-@ liners were delivered in a way to suggest that the violence inherent in the films was a joke , as opposed to Connery 's , which was used to mitigate the violence . Moore explained his approach to the humour by saying " to me , the Bond situations are so ridiculous ... I mean , this man is supposed to be a spy , and yet everybody knows he 's a spy ... it 's outrageous . So you have to treat the humour outrageously as well " .

Pauline Kael was a fairly vocal critic of Moore 's , dismissing him as an " iceberg " in The Man with the Golden Gun . In reviewing For Your Eyes Only , she wrote " Roger Moore is Bond again , and his idea of Bond 's imperturbable cool is the same as playing dead " . Reviewing Moonraker , she wrote " Roger Moore is dutiful and passive as Bond ; his clothes are neatly pressed and he shows up for work , like an office manager who is turning into dead wood but hanging on to collect his pension " . Only in The Spy Who Loved Me , one of Kael 's favourite Bond films , did she praise him describing him as self @-@ effacing : " Moore gets the chance to look scared ? an emotion that suits him and makes him more likable " .

A number of Moore 's personal preferences were transferred into his characterisation of Bond : his taste for Cuban cigars and his wearing of safari suits were assigned to the character . Moore 's use for cigars in his early films put him in contrast to the cigarette @-@ smoking Connery , Lazenby and Dalton . By the time of Moore 's fifth film , For Your Eyes Only , released in 1981 , his characterisation had come to represent an old @-@ fashioned character , in contrast to the fashionability Connery had brought to the role in the 1960s .

In 1985 Moore appeared in his seventh and final film , A View to a Kill ; he was 57 ( he appeared alongside co @-@ star Tanya Roberts , who was 30 ) . Critics focussed on Moore 's age : The Washington Post 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 " . When he was cast for the film , Moore recalled that he felt " a bit long in the tooth " , and in December 2007 admitted that he " was only about four hundred years too old for the part " . Like Connery , Moore appeared as Bond in seven films ; by the time he retired in 1985 , he was the oldest actor to play 007 in the Eon series , and his Bond films had earned over \$ 1 billion at the box office .

= = = Timothy Dalton : 1986 ? 94 = = =

With the retirement of Roger Moore in 1985 , a search for a new actor to play Bond took place that saw a number of actors , including Sam Neill , Pierce Brosnan and 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 " , although Bond producer Albert R. Broccoli was not sold on the actor . Dalton and Brosnan were both considered by Eon , but after Brosnan was eventually ruled out by his Remington Steele contract , Dalton was appointed in August 1986 on a salary of \$ 5 @.@ 2 million . When he was either 24 or 25 years old Dalton had discussed playing Bond with Broccoli , but decided he was too young to accept the role , thinking Bond should be played between 35 and 40 years old . In preparing for the role , Dalton , a green @-@ eyed , dark haired , slender , 6 ' 2 " ( 1 m 88 cm ) classically trained Shakespearean actor , was keen to portray the character as accurately as possible , reading up extensively on the

books before his role in *The Living Daylights* ( 1987 ) .

Dalton 's Bond was a serious one : dark , cold , emotional stern , ruthless , showing little humour , and focused as a killer with little time for fun and indulgence . Dalton 's interpretation of the character came from his " desire to see a darker Bond " , one that was " less of a womaniser , tougher and closer to the darker character Ian Fleming wrote about " . James Chapman also considered Dalton to be closer to Fleming 's Bond than the previous actors , writing that Dalton was " clearly less comfortable ... with the witty asides and one @-@ liners ... so he becomes something closer to the Bond of the books , who rarely develops a sense of humour " . When reviewing *Licence to Kill* , Iain Johnstone of *The Sunday Times* disagreed , declaring that " any vestiges of the gentleman spy ... by Ian Fleming " have now gone ; he went on to say that " this character is remarkably close both in deed and action to the eponymous hero of the new Batman film " .

Not all viewers were taken with Dalton . Jay Scott of *The Globe and Mail* was entirely dismissive . " The new Bond has been widely described in feature stories as a throwback to the Ian Fleming original ( studying the Fleming novels , Dalton was pleased to discover that Bond was a human being , he says ) , and that may be true , if the Fleming original lacked charm , sex appeal and wit . Timothy Dalton 's Bond is a serious bloke who swallows his words and approaches his job with responsibility and humanity , and eschews promiscuity ? Dirtless Harry . You get the feeling that on his off nights , he might curl up with the *Reader 's Digest* and catch an episode of *Moonlighting* ? he 'd try to memorize the jokes ? before nodding off under the influence of Ovaltine . The British reviews of *The Living Daylights* have been laudatory , perhaps because this Bond is the most British of all , if British is to be understood as a synonym for reserved " .

Raymond Benson noted that Dalton " purposely played Bond as a ruthless and serious man with very little of the wit displayed by Connery , Lazenby or Moore " , and considered him to be " the most accurate and literal interpretation of the role ... ever seen on screen " . His character also reflected a degree of moral ambiguity ; in *Licence to Kill* , for instance , he becomes a rogue agent , while Dalton himself saw the character as a " man , not a superhuman ; a man who is beset with moral confusions and apathies and uncertainties , and who is often very frightened and nervous and tense " . Smith and Lavington observed that during Dalton 's portrayal in *Licence to Kill* , Bond appeared " self @-@ absorbed ... reckless , brutal , prone to nervous laughter and ... probably insane , or at least seriously disturbed . In the light of *Licence to Kill* , one academic , Martin Willis , referred to Dalton 's Bond as a " muscular vigilante " . Steven Jay Rubin noted that Dalton 's films had " a hard @-@ edged reality and some unflinching violent episodes that were better suited to Dalton 's more realistic approach to the character " . Rubin considered Dalton 's portrayal to be " Fleming 's Bond ... the suffering Bond " . In contrast to the previous incarnations of the character , Smith and Lavington identified Dalton 's humour as " brooding rather than flippant " ; combined with his heavy smoking , they considered him " an effective leading man " . Eoghan Lyng , writing for *The James Bond Dossier* , favourably compared him to Daniel Craig , stating that " Despite chronological placement , it was Dalton , not Brosnan , who proved to be the prototype for the 21st century Bond . " . Although Bond screenwriter Richard Maibaum called Sean Connery the best Bond , he considered Dalton the best actor of the four he worked with . His predecessor , Roger Moore also felt that Dalton was the best Bond .

Dalton 's films did not perform as well at the box office as most of the previous films . Commentators such as Screen International considered the Bond series had run its course in the age of series such as *Indiana Jones* and *Lethal Weapon* . Edward P. Comentale observed that " Dalton , for all his occasional flat northern vowels , was probably too much the stage actor to be convincing as an action hero in the age of Willis , Schwarzenegger and Stallone " . After just two films ? *The Living Daylights* and *Licence to Kill* ? litigation ensued over the licensing of the Bond catalogue , delaying what would have been Dalton 's third film by several years . His six @-@ year contract expired in 1993 and he left the series in 1994 .

= = = Pierce Brosnan : 1995 ? 2004 = = =

After Timothy Dalton retired from the Bond role in 1994 , Eon turned to the actor they had

considered after *A View to a Kill* : Pierce Brosnan . He was offered a three @-@ film contract , with an option on a fourth ; his salary for his first film , *GoldenEye* , was \$ 4 million , which rose to \$ 16 @.@ 5 million for his fourth and final outing , *Die Another Day* . Brosnan had first met Broccoli on the set of *For Your Eyes Only* , when Brosnan 's wife , Cassandra Harris , was appearing in the film as Countess Lisl von Schlaf , and the couple lunched with Broccoli during filming . Brosnan went on to play a criminal @-@ turned @-@ private investigator in *Remington Steele* in the 1980s , where he captured some of the traits of previous Bonds in playing the role : like Moore , he exemplified a high degree of suavity , elegance , charm and wit , but displayed a masculinity and grittiness on occasion reminiscent of Connery 's Bond , both successfully " combine the character 's Englishness with a classless internationalism that is highly knowing " . Andrew Spicer says that " Brosnan 's frame carries the ' Armani look ' with its refined understated Englishness , to perfection . His lithe , sinuous athleticism is well suited to the fast @-@ paced action and state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art gadgetry that retains the series ' core appeal " . James Chapman also considered Brosnan 's appearance striking , saying the actor had " old @-@ fashioned , darkly handsome matinee idol looks " .

With Brosnan , the Bond writers knew that because of the changes in public attitudes , he could not be as overtly sexual and dominant over women as Connery 's Bond , and was denounced by M in *Goldeneye* to be a " sexist , misogynist dinosaur , a relic of the Cold War " . Brosnan was seen by many as the quintessential James Bond in appearance and manner ; displaying an air of coolness , elegance and a grace which made him believable as an international playboy , if not purely as an assassin . John G. Stackhouse for instance argues that it is preposterous that any man as strikingly handsome as Brosnan and Connery could be a secret agent , saying , " When Sean Connery or Pierce Brosnan enters a room , everyone notices . Thus it is ridiculous to suppose that James Bond , looking like that , could be a secret agent for longer than about two seconds " .

Brosnan 's Bond was introduced in *Goldeneye* ; James Chapman argues that the film works his portrayal of Bond into the history of the others in the series through the post @-@ credits sequence use of the Aston Martin DB5 , previously seen in *Goldfinger* and *Thunderball* , " thus immediately evoking the memory of [ Sean ] Connery " . Brosnan 's characterisation of Bond was seen by Jeremy Black as being " closer to the Fleming novels than Moore ... yet he is also lighter and less intense than Dalton " . Black also commented that the shift in character in the first three films reflected changing social opinions , with Bond not smoking . Brosnan was clear he wanted to change Bond 's smoking habit , saying " I don 't give a damn about everyone 's perception of the character : I think smoking causes cancer therefore he doesn 't smoke " , although he did smoke a Cuban cigar in *Die Another Day* . Brosnan continued with the use of humour prevalent with other portrayals , and provided a " mix of action and danger threaded through with the right amount of wit and humour " ; Smith and Lavington saw the humour largely as puns that were " flippant , but not crass " .

After four films in the role , Brosnan stated he wished to do one final Bond film . Although plans were made for a film to be released in 2004 , negotiations stalled and Brosnan announced his intention to leave in July 2004 .

= = = Daniel Craig : 2005 ? present = = =

On 14 October 2005 Eon Productions , Sony Pictures Entertainment and MGM announced at a press conference in London that Daniel Craig would be the sixth actor to portray Bond in the Eon series ( although seventh film Bond overall ) . A tuxedo @-@ clad Craig arrived via a Royal Navy speedboat . Craig had based his acceptance of the role on the strength of the script for the first film , *Casino Royale* ; he later recalled that " once I sat down and read the story , I just thought that I wanted to tell [ it ] ... I 'm a big Bond fan , and I love what he represents " . Significant controversy followed the decision , with some critics and fans expressing doubt the producers had made the right choice . Throughout the entire production period , Internet campaigns such as [danielcraigisnotbond.com](http://danielcraigisnotbond.com) expressed their dissatisfaction and threatened to boycott the film in protest . Craig , unlike previous actors , was not considered by the protesters to fit the tall , dark ,

handsome and charismatic image of Bond to which viewers had been accustomed . Many disparagingly called him " James Blonde " , believing the 5 ft 10 in ( 1 @. @ 78 m ) blond @- @ haired blue @- @ eyed rugged Craig to be far fitting from the traditional tall , dark and suave actors who had earlier portrayed him . The Daily Mirror ran a front page news story critical of Craig , with the headline , The Name 's Bland ? James Bland .

Craig first played Bond in the 2006 film Casino Royale , an adaptation of Fleming 's novel of the same name and a reboot of the Eon series , which saw Bond earn his 00 status . Despite the negative press on his appointment , Craig was widely praised by critics and former Bonds after the release of Casino Royale , believing him to have been the first actor to truly nail Fleming 's character in the book : Todd McCarthy , reviewing the film for Variety , considered that " Craig comes closer to the author 's original conception of this exceptionally long @- @ lived male fantasy figure than anyone since early Sean Connery " , and he went on to say that " Craig once and for all claims the character as his own " , while Steven Spielberg called Craig " the perfect 21st @- @ century Bond " . Paul Arendt , writing for the BBC , agreed , observing that " Daniel Craig is not a good Bond . He 's a great Bond . Specifically , he is 007 as conceived by Ian Fleming ? a professional killing machine , a charming , cold @- @ hearted patriot with a taste for luxury . Craig is the first actor to really nail 007 's defining characteristic : he 's an absolute swine " . James Chapman commented on the realism and violence in the film noting that Bond is seen to seriously bleed for the first time in the series ; Chapman also identified a number of violent scenes which make Casino Royale notable in the series . In 2012 Skyfall was released : it was Craig 's third outing as 007 . Reviewing the film , Philip French , writing in The Observer , considered that Craig managed to " get out of the shadow of Connery " , while the New Statesman thought that he had " relaxed into Bond without losing any steeliness " .