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James Bond films celebrate 50th anniversary

CBS/AP/ October 5, 2012, 6:30 AM

On this day 50 years ago, James Bond became a movie star.

The British superspy first hit the big screen on Oct. 5, 1962, when "Dr. No" opened in theaters, introducing Ian Fleming's suave 007 to the masses.

Now, a half-century and 6 Bond actors later, the series is one of the longest running in history, having made \$4.9 billion in ticket sales over 22 films. The 23rd Bond movie ("Skyfall") will be released in U.S. theaters on Nov. 9.

The films also introduced the world to the Bond girls. When Ursula Andress emerged from the sea with curves glistening and a dagger strapped to her bikini in 1962's "Dr. No," she made the Bond girl an instant icon. Bond girls though the years have included Honor Blackman, Jane Seymour, Barbara Bach, Grace Jones, Denise Richards, and Halle Berry.

Music has also been a part of the franchise. Singers from Shirley Bassey to Duran Duran, Sheryl Crow, and Madonna have lent their voices to the theme songs for the Bond films. Adele is the latest star to join that list, having co-written and performed the theme to "Skyfall."

The anniversary is being celebrated in a number of ways. A new documentary -- "Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of James Bond" -- will premiere Friday on the EPIX channel.

That same day, a charity auction will take place at Christie's where the items being sold include an Aston Martin featured in 2008's "Quantum of Solace."

There's a new Blu-ray anniversary box set called "Bond 50" containing all 22 released James Bond films (now available) and the Museum of Modern Art in New York is screening each of the films through October.





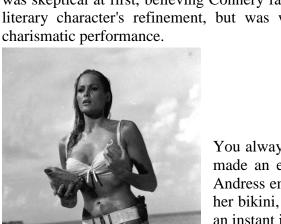
Ian Fleming's spy made his debut in the 1953 novel "Casino Royale" and appeared in 14 novels and short story collections written by the former newspaper editor who had served in naval intelligence. Following Fleming's death in 1964, several other authors (including Kingsley Amis, John Gardner, and Raymond Benson) penned further adventures of 007.

'007' was first dramatized in a 1954 live TV adaptation of "Casino Royale" (played by Barry Nelson) on the CBS series "Climax" and the network discussed with Fleming a possible series based on Bond. The idea fell through but the big screen beckoned.



British secret agent James Bond (code named '007') made his first appearance on movie screens on October 5, 1962, in the lean Caribbean thriller "Dr. No." The low-budget actioner, starring Scottish actor Sean Connery as the spy with a license to kill, was a hit, leading to a long-running series of globe-trotting spy adventures that continues now, 50 years later, with the latest James Bond adventure, "Skyfall."

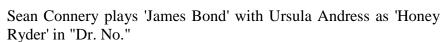
Sean Connery had had a few minor film roles and a starring role in Disney's "Darby O'Gill and the Little People" before being cast as James Bond in "Dr. No" (1962). Ian Fleming was skeptical at first, believing Connery failed to project his literary character's refinement, but was won over by his

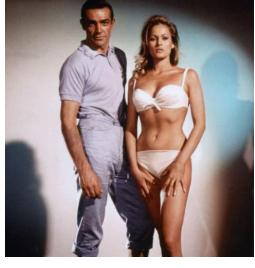




You always remember your first Bond Girl. Ursula Andress as 'Honey Ryder' made an entrance in "Dr. No" that few Bond Women could match. When Andress emerged from the sea with curves glistening with a dagger strapped to her bikini, she made the Bond girl

an instant icon.







Sean Connery with Daniela Bianchi in "From Russia With Love" (1963), one of the best Bond films, with a memorable turn by Robert Shaw as a cool, cruel assassin.

Bernard Lee as the no-nonsense spymaster 'M' (center) suffered Bond's attitude to no end. But the secret agent had a fan in the form of 'Miss Moneypenny' (Lois Maxwell), one Bond Woman who kept a light burning for him through every film.





Sean Connery rehearses a scene from the "From Russia With Love" with the Italian actress Daniela Bianchi playing 'Tatiana Romanova' while director Terence Young helps pose the actors.



British composer John Barry, creator of the James Bond theme music, at his piano in December 1967.



James Bond discovers that the golden touch of the villain "Goldfinger" (1964) can prove fatal to a comely lass (Shirley Eaton) when she is encased in gold paint. It's just the beginning of a mystery that leads Bond to a plot focused on all the gold in Fort Knox.

"Goldfinger" helped carve into stone some of the timeless elements of Bond movies -- the brassy title song, the ever-flashier sets for villain hideouts, and sci-fi gadgets. Here Bond finds himself at the mercy of Goldfinger's laser.

Bond: "Do you expect me to talk?"
Goldfinger: "No, Mr. Bond. I expect
you to die!"

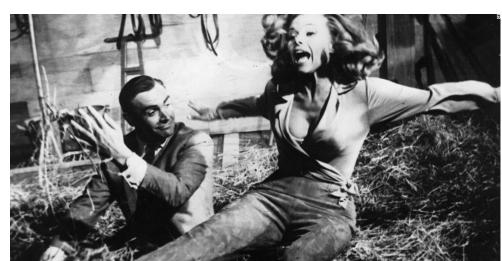




In "Goldfinger" (1964), James Bond's Aston Martin DB5 came equipped with all the extras - machine guns, ejection seat, rotating license plates, spikes, and other defensive weaponry.



Sean Connery's Bond is up to his tricks with actress Honor Blackman as Pussy Galore during the filming of "Goldfinger" in 1964.



Honor Blackman is shown as Pussy Galore in "Goldfinger."



James Bond makes his escape via jet backpack in "Thunderball" (1965). Much of the film took place underwater with thrilling fight scenes staged for Bond's desperate bid to recover stolen nuclear warheads.





Claudine Auger played 'Domino Derval' in "Thunderball."



A scene from the James Bond film "Thunderball" with Sean Connery, Claudine Auger as 'Domino Derval', and Adolfo Celi playing 'Emilio Largo'.

Sean Connery and Luciana Paoluzzi as 'Fiona Volpe' being photographed in bed on the set of "Thunderball" in 1965.



Molly Peters (as 'Patricia Fearing' and Sean Connery are shown in a scene from the 1965 James Bond film "Thunderball."





In addition to the official (and lawsuit allowed) Bond films, there was also a spoof film produced in 1967 slightly inspired by Fleming's "Casino Royale." The story featured seven 007s including David Niven, Peter Sellers, and former Bond Girl Ursula Andress.

Woody Allen as 'Jimmy Bond' in "Casino Royale."







Roald Dahl ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") penned the screenplay of "You Only Live Twice" (1967) which made Bond fans feel like a kid in a candy store: exotic locations, nifty gadgets, spaceships, and Ken Adams' design for arch villain Blofeld's hideout situated inside an extinct volcano. The actual set measured 400 feet in diameter and 120 feet high with a 70-ft.-diameter sliding roof on top.

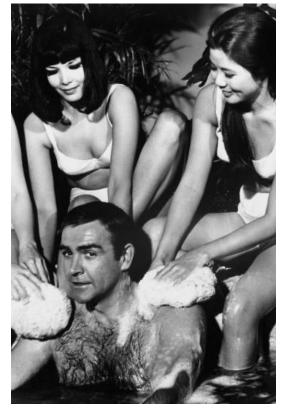
Weapons ace 'Q' (Desmond Llewelyn) explains his latest gadget -- an autogyro nicknamed 'Little Nellie' -- to James Bond (Sean Connery) in "You Only Live Twice."



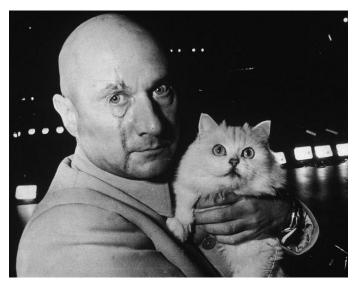


Karin Dor is shown as 'Helga Brandt' in a scene "You Only Live Twice."

Connery surrouned by bathing beauties in "You Only Live Twice" in 1966.



Donald Pleasence in character as 'Ernst Stavro Blofeld' holding a white cat on the set of "You Only Live Twice".



Co-producers Harry Saltzman and Albert "Cubby" Broccoli (right) on the set of "You Only Live Twice".



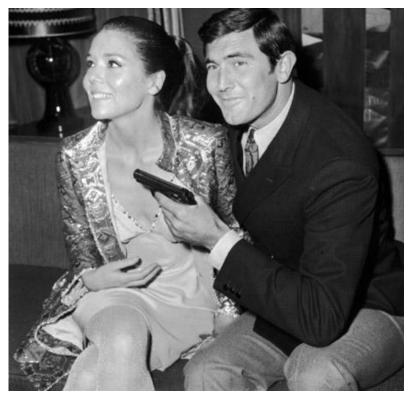
When Connery bowed out of playing Bond for a sixth time, the producers brought on board Australian actor George Lazenby for 1969's "On Her Majesty's Secret Service." Shot in the Swiss Alps, the film featured some nifty stuntwork and, as Bond girl, Diana Rigg of the TV spy series "The Avengers."





Diana Rigg, who played 'Teresa di Vicenzo' in 1969's "On Her Majesty's Secret Service," is shown as Emma Peel from the TV series "The Avengers" in this 1965 photo.

George Lazenby with actress Diana Rigg who played "Teresa di Vicenzo' during a press conference for "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" in London, October 1968.





George Lazenby offers co-star Helena Ronee a light during the filming of "'On Her Majesty's Secret Service" in the Swiss Alps in October 1968.

When Lazenby balked at signing a long-term contract, Connery was wooed back by producers for "Diamonds Are Forever" (1971) in which Bond had to save the World (again!) from Ernst Stavro Blofeld who was using a diamond-laden laser satellite to wreak havoc.

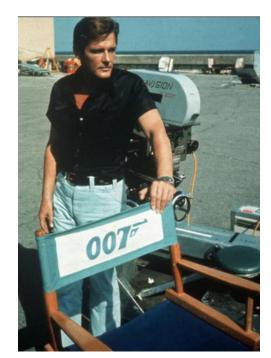




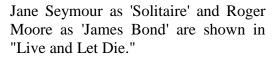
Jill St. John is shown as 'Tiffany Case' from "Diamonds Are Forever."

Roger Moore -- who had starred in the TV spy series "The Saint" -- became the third movie Bond in "Live and Let Die" (1973). The actor projected a more upper crust Bond than Connery as he scampered through America and the Caribbean among voodoo sects and Harlem drug kingpins. Also featured were Gloria Hendry (left) as a CIA agent; Jane Seymour as 'Solitaire'; and a title song by Paul McCartney and Wings.





Roger Moore relaxes on location for the filming of "Live and Let Die".







The cast of "Live and Let Die" in 1973. From front center, clockwise, Roger Moore as 'Bond', Jane Seymour as 'Solitaire', Julius Harris as 'Tee Hee', Geoffrey Holder as 'Baron Samedi', Earl Jolly Brown as 'Whisper' and Yaphet Kotto as 'Kananga'.



Roger Moore hams it up during the filming of "Live and Let Die.



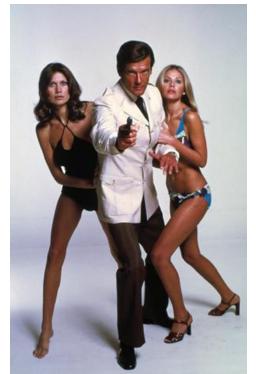
A boat chase goes airborne in "Live and Let Die."



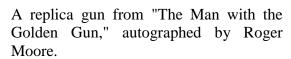
"The Man with the Golden Gun" (1974) was memorable chiefly for some martial arts acrobatics and the titular assassin Scaramanga, played by Christopher Lee (who was actually a distant cousin of Ian Fleming).

Scaramanga's getaway car (an AMC Matador) had a distinct advantage in being able to turn into a getaway plane.





Maud Adams (left) played the title character in 1983's "Octopussy" and 'Andrea Anders' in "The Man with the Golden Gun. Here she poses with Roger Moore (center) and Britt Ekland from "The Man with the Golden Gun."





Another memorable Ken Adams set from "The Spy Who Loves Me" (1977). The largest film stage in the World (dubbed the "007 Stage") was built at Pinewood Studios in order to accommodate a supertanker that swallows British, American, and Soviet submarines. The stage burned to the ground during production of "Legend" but was later rebuilt.





Bond's Lotus Esprit automobile converted into a submersible in "The Spy Who Loved Me." The submarine also came equipped with surface-to-air missiles, mines, and harpoons.

Not even James Bond's producers could ignore the success of "Star Wars". So 1979's "Moonraker" featured an arch villain camped out in Earth's orbit ('Hugo Drax' played by Michael Lonsdale) ready to unleash a biological holocaust.





Back on terra firma: In "For Your Eyes Only" (1981), adapted from two Fleming short stories, Bond's search for a missing missile guidance system intersects with a woman seeking revenge for her parents' murders. The less-gadget-driven film featured locations in Greece, the Bahamas, and Italy; a title song performed (on-camera) by Sheena Easton; and as Bond's romantic interest, Carole Bouquet.



A Walther PPK handgun is held in front of a poster of the film "For Your Eyes Only."



Thanks to a court decision that rights awarded remake "Thunderball" to film producer Kevin McClory, Sean Connery was enticed to take on the James Bond role again in "Never Say Never Again" (1983). Though it closely adhered to the story of nuclear theft, it also incorporated winking elements pointing to the increasing age of its star. The title itself was an in-joke (suggested by Connery's wife) after the actor had once vowed "never again" to play Bond.

Competing against "Never Say Never Again" in cinemas in 1983 was an official Bond production with Roger Moore, "Octopussy." It ranged in locale from India to East Germany and featured Bond in clown makeup. But it also upped his quota of Bond Girls.





Grace Jones starred as 'May Day', a woman not afraid to get her hands dirty, in "A View to a Kill" (1985), the last Bond film to star Roger Moore.

Christopher Walken as arch fiend 'Max Zorin' and Grace Jones as 'May Day' in "A View to a Kill."





Roger Moore poses with the Bond Girls from the film "View to a Kill" in 1984.



Roger Moore on set during the filming of "A View to a Kill" in Paris, France in August 1984.

After Roger Moore's seven turns as Bond, the producers were ready for a younger star with a fresh take on the Fleming character. Pierce Brosnan was approached but could not get out of his contract for the TV series "Remington Steele." Timothy Dalton -- whom producers had approached back in 1969 when he was in his mid-20s -- was signed for "The Living Daylights" (1987) in which he played a darker, more rueful agent less given to quips. A critical favorite and popular success, the film featured Bond among the mujahideen in Afghanistan.



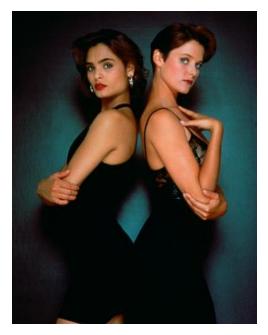


Timothy Dalton and Maryam d'Abo as 'Kara Milovy' pose for a publicity still for "The Living Daylights."

Less successful in the United States was Dalton's second Bond film, "License to Kill" (1989) in which the agent seeks personal vengeance against a drug lord.

Legal bouts between MGM and the producers delayed production of the next Bond adventure, by which time Dalton quit.





Talisa Soto as 'Lupe Lamora' (left) and Carey Lowell as 'Pam Bouvier' are shown in "Licence to Kill."

With "Remington Steele" cancelled, Pierce Brosnan was able to pick up the Bond baton in the 17th film of the series, "GoldenEye" (1995). The first post-Cold War Bond film, it eschewed elements of the original Ian Fleming stories with a totally originally story and script.







Pierce Brosnan as 'James Bond' in "GoldenEye."

Jonathan Pryce as a media mogul who believes coercing superpowers into a war will boost ratings (he may have a point) in "Tomorrow Never Dies" (1997). The film performed well at the box office despite opening on the same day as a little film called "Titanic."





Pierce Brosnan as 'James Bond' and Michelle Yeoh in "Tomorrow Never Dies."

Some bravura stuntwork in "The World Is Not Enough" (1999), which revolved around assassinations and a plot to destroy a Russian oil pipeline.





Sophie Marceau as 'Elektra King' and Pierce Brosnan as 'James Bond' are shown in a scene from "The World Is Not Enough."

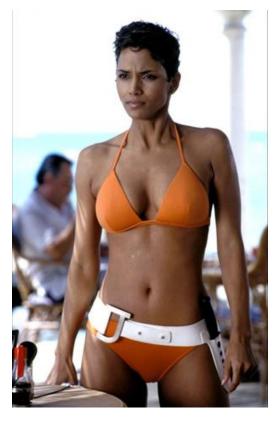
Pierce Brosnan and Desmond Llewelyn as 'Q' on the set of "The World Is Not Enough."





In "Die Another Day" (2002), Pierce Brosnan as Bond infiltrated a military camp in North Korea to block an arms shipment. Getting in proved a lot easier than getting out.

In attire that recalled Ursula Andress in "Dr. No," Halle Berry costarred in "Die Another Day" as American agent 'Jinx'. Speculation that she would star in a spin-off film failed to pan out.





The movies' sixth official Bond -- Daniel Craig -- starred in the successful 2006 reboot of the franchise, "Casino Royale". Examining the origins of the Bond character in his first assignments, the film was as lean and dashing as its star and featured some expertly filmed and edited chase sequences and a narrative much more emotional than the typical Bond outing.

Daniel Craig as 'James Bond' appears with Eva Green as 'Vesper Lynd' in "Casino Royale."





Daniel Craig in the direct follow-up to "Casino Royale," "Quantum of Solace" (2008) in which Bond sought revenge for the death of his girlfriend in the previous film. Production was rushed owing to a pending writers strike. Later, MGM's financial woes led to a delay in production of a third Bond film starring Craig until 2012's "Skyfall."



In "Skyfall", the intelligence organization MI6 comes under attack. This latest James Bond adventure comes with an especially high pedigree. In addition to Judi Dench returning as 'M', the film also stars Javier Bardem, Ralph Fiennes, and Albert Finney. It was directed by Sam Mendes ("American Beauty") and features such under-the-line stars as screenwriter Josh Logan ("Hugo"), cinematographer Roger Deakins, composer Thomas Newsman, and songstress Adele.

Judi Dench as M in "Skyfall."





Javier Bardem as 'Raoul Silva' in the James Bond thriller "Skyfall."



Daniel Craig and Berenice Marlohe as 'Severine' are shown in "Skyfall."



When asked if he had tried to avoid being typecast as Bond, Craig -- who has starred in "The Golden Compass", "Defiance", "Cowboys & Aliens", and "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" -- told a "Skyfall" press conference: "I just like working. I mean it's as simple as that. I don't think about it, genuinely ... I've been lucky enough to get some really nice roles thrown at me and I grabbed them.

"If I could do this for a few more years, I'd be more than happy."

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