

This spoiler-free review of *SPECTRE* was published October 22, 2015

DANIEL CRAIG IS BETTER THAN EVER AS JAMES BOND IN *SPECTRE*

By Anders Frejdh, Editor of *From Sweden with Love*, Scandinavia's most popular website dedicated to Ian Fleming's James Bond – <http://jamesbond007.se>

For the fourth time **Daniel Craig** stars as Ian Fleming's secret agent 007 with a license to kill. This time, he's better than ever in the role. Craig is a great actor - the greatest of all who have played Bond so far. This really is his finest hour as Her Majesty's best secret agent.

Once again, director **Sam Mendes** has given us a film full of entertainment, excitement and sexuality. As with his previous film, *Skyfall*, *SPECTRE* retains a freshness and vitality. Stunt co-ordinator **Gary Powell** and special effects supervisor **Chris Corbould** ensure there are many spectacular chases, stunts and special effects from a vast and talented team. Mendes gives us a sense of reality and plausibility together with several visual nods to previous films in the series (satisfying all the Bond fans). It is smartly done, but not pastiche. It is also just the right level of humor this time, something that Craig handles really well. Even more refreshing was that there are no exaggerated product placements.

The entire ensemble is impeccable. Casting director **Debbie McWilliams** have yet again done a wonderful job in finding the right actors for each role.

Christoph Waltz as Franz Oberhauser is perfect as a rogue - a complex character who is similar (or possibly superior to) Bond, which is as it always should be. As for "Bond ladies" Mendes has once again made good choices. The Italian **Monica Bellucci** as Lucia Sciarra, the oldest Bond girl so far, shows that sexiness is not about age. But unfortunately, her role is far too small. French actress **Léa Seydoux** as Dr Madeleine Swann is as engaging and stylish - her character an integral part of the action, not just eye candy, as has sometimes previously been the case.

American **Dave Bautista** as the Oddjob-like villain, Mr Hinx, provides a sinister and evil presence on the screen. All MI6 employees played by **Ralph Fiennes** (Gareth Mallory aka M), **Ben Whishaw** (Q) and **Naomie Harris** (Eve Moneypenny) are back and being really in the forefront of this film. And I totally enjoyed their 'rival', **Andrew Scott** (head of the Centre for National Security), another new fabulous actor on the Bond scene.

Denmark's **Jesper Christensen** is back as Mr. White (from *Casino Royale* and *Quantum Of Solace*) and adds an extra layer of depth to the film and although small, the part is not insignificant.

SPECTRE is enhanced by the stunning cinematography by Sweden-based **Hoyte van Hoytema** (has been Guldbagge for Best Cinematography to three Swedish films) and his Swedish colleague **Jallo Faber** who handled the 2nd unit

photography. Each frame is fantastic with the composition and color palette simply delicious. Undoubtedly, SPECTRE is the most beautiful Bond movie.

The sound in *SPECTRE* gives that extra dimension: this is thanks to three-time Swedish Oscar® hero **Per Hallberg**. Having won an Oscar® for *Skyfall*, Per and his team have again done thorough and outstanding work. They may well be rewarded with another statuette.

The composer **Thomas Newman** is back and has done a sterling job with the music for his second Bond film. The screenplay by **John Logan, Neal Purvis & Robert Wade** and **Jez Butterworth** have made a plot that is tight and makes sense with an eye on contemporary intelligence concerns. They injected a lot of charm and wit into the story.

Mendes second Bond film is first-rate cinema entertainment that will please cinema audiences around the world - and also satisfy all those who, like me, wished for a classic Bond this time.

Skyfall set a new standard for Bond films which *SPECTRE* will do well to match. In fact the fourth Daniel Craig Bond film reveals itself to be connected to the previous three.

Finally, just take off the hat for the producers, **Michael G. Wilson** and **Barbara Broccoli**, who once again have outdone themselves to bring Bond back with a bang. See *SPECTRE* at the cinema and decide for yourself.

The film started shooting on 5th December 2014 in London, after which the crew then went to Austria, Mexico and Morocco.

SPECTRE is released in the UK on 26th October 2015, almost exactly three years after the previous film, SKYFALL, opened at cinemas.

The World premiere in London is held on the same day at the Royal Albert Hall.

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