

A CONVERSATION ABOUT MOONRAKER WITH BÉATRICE LIBERT, NOVEMBER 26, 2011

Interview by Anders Frejdb, Editor of From Sweden With Love.

What is the story behind you ending up in the role as Mademoiselle Deradier in Moonraker?

[Béatrice Libert:] Well, there was a casting in Paris where all models were invited. Model agencies sent their most beautiful girls to this casting. I went on my own, nothing to lose. When I saw all the girls, I was certain I didn't have a chance. All the girls had long black hair and were so beautiful. I had short blond hair! Albert Broccoli was sitting in a chair, looking at all the girls and I had a NO, like many others. Just when I left I bumped into the director, Lewis Gilbert. He asked if Broccoli had chosen me and I told him he had not. Gilbert then went up to Cubby and said: "If you don't take this girl, I won't make your movie!" I got a contract for six months. We were paid per week. In total, I think I worked about three months on the movie in a time space of six months. During these six months we were not allowed to take other jobs. And there you go, that is how I got in the movie.

Where was your scenes filmed, in the studios or on location?

[BL:] My scenes were filmed both on location and in studios. There were two studios used near Paris, Les Studios de Billancourt and Studios de Boulogne.

What are your fondest memories from the filming? How was it like being on set of a Bond film?

[BL:] What I remember well is that everybody was like a big family. Everybody was treated equally, all the way from the biggest actors (Moore and Chiles) to the small figurants. Especially Roger Moore was a great person, a real gentleman! A great memory is when Mr. Moore dropped me off at home with his car after a day of shooting. We had a nice chat and he gave me a big hug when I left. A hug I will never forget!!

Did you do any promotion for the film when it was released? Did you travel anywhere particularly for this purpose?

[BL:] Yes, as I am originally from Belgium, I did all the big cities in Belgium together with some other actors from the movie including Anne Lonnberg**. We also went to the Royal World Premiere in London. That was a great experience!

**Editor's note: Ms. Lonnberg is half-Swedish although she does not speak Swedish.

Are you still active in the film industry or what have you been doing since the film came out?

[BL:] No, not at all, after the film was released, I did some modelling work until 1984. In that year, my first son was born and I decided to leave Paris and moved to the south of France to raise my kids.

What do you think of the "James Bond fan community"? How does it feel to be remembered so fondly after all these years?

[BL:] It is amazing. I could never imagine this. For most movies, it is only the main characters that stay in peoples mind, but for Bond, it includes everybody that was in or worked on the movies! I'm very happy that my dear friend, Bernard VandenDriessche, introduced me to this wonderful world.

As From Sweden With Love is celebrating the James Bond phenomenon from a Swedish point of you, have you ever visited Sweden or any other part of Scandinavia?

[BL:] No I have never been to Sweden or even Scandinavia. Maybe in the future...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE INTERVIEW, BÉATRICE, YOU ARE VERY SWEET!

Special thanks to my kind and lovely friends in Belgium, Bernard VandenDriessche and Michel Lefebvre, for assistance during the interview which was done in French.