

## **INTERVIEW WITH 'PINDER' AKA EARL CAMERON, AUGUST 2012**

*Interview by Anders Frejdh, Editor of From Sweden with Love.*

### **Did you always want to become an actor?**

I had, from my early childhood, a secret yearning for acting but I was far too shy to mention it to anyone.

### **How did you become involved in Thunderball in the first place?**

I had worked on three films with Coby Brockley "Safaria, Odongo and Killers of Killers of Kilimanjaro" and he wanted me on the first Bond picture "Dr. No" but Saltzman did not think I was right for the part of quarrel however when "Thunderball came along" the part of Pinder came my way.

### **How did you prepare for the film once you were contracted? Did you read the novel or any other of the Fleming novels?**

I never read any of the Ian Fleming's novels, but the part of Pinder is fairly straight forward which did not cause for much study.

### **How was it like filming on location in the Bahamas?**

Location on Nassau was very glamorous, more than any other I had or have been on in my seven weeks there was a delight.

### **What did you think about the relationship between Sean Connery and the rest of the crew?**

As I remember, in relationship with Connery, he was extremely friendly and also with myself.

### **What happened at the end of filming this film, any end-of-shooting party or similar event? Did you attend the premiere and/or any other Bond film premieres over the years?**

I did not attend the premiere as I was away at the time of the event, in fact, at the end of the filming, I was in Manchester at Grenada Television working on a Production "The Life of Bessie Smith".

### **What are your memories of Cubby Broccoli?**

AS mentioned I worked on three productions with Coby and found him very gentle and kind person.

### **What are your memories of Harry Saltzman?**

I never got to know Harry Saltzman that well but I don't think he was very popular with the film crew.

### **What are your memories of Terence Young?**

As I had worked with Terence Young on the film "Safari" with Vixctor Mature I found Terry very easy to work with and extremely friendly and a very good Director.

### **What are your memories of Desmond Llewelyn?**

Desmond Llewelyn was a gentle sort of man with a good sense of humour.

**Did you make any promotional tour for the film and in that case, where did you go?**

I did not make any promotional tour with the film in fact the only picture I did a promotional tour with a movie called "Sapphire" directed by Basil Dearden which was rated by America as the best British Film of the year.

**Which is your best and most personal memory from being involved in Thunderball?**

Forgive me for saying this but my best memories was being on the film "Thunderball" was spending a large part of the time being on the beach at the Nassau Beach Hotel when I was not needed on any of the shots.

**This year, it is the golden anniversary of Dr. No, the first Bond, why do you think the Bond film series has lasted fifty years?**

You have asked me a very difficult question which I do not think anyone could honestly answer: "Why do I think the Bond Film Series has lasted 50 years?" As you might know that the first film Dr. No was almost a complete flop. In fact they ran out of budget when they were shooting in Jamaica and asked for more money from Columbia Films to finish the picture and Columbia refused to let them have it, no one believed in the production with an unknown star and an unknown writer it was considered just another one of Cubby Broccoli many flops. Even when it was first shown to the press the production office were not impressed from the re-action and attitude of the critics but strangely enough the next day the press unanimously raved about the film which was the beginning of a wonderful future of 50 years and still going strong.

**You have had an amazing film career, which film or films have you found more challenging to make and why? If yes, any anecdotes related to that?**

A delicate question my first film "Pool of London" was the most challenging as I spent at least 8 years in the theatre playing to a live audience so it took me some time to get used to speaking quietly and not using hand gestures as one tends to do on the stage as theatre in larger than life and filming is in general smaller than life it took me quite some time to adjust.

**Of all directors, actors and actresses you have worked with, which one/ones do you enjoy working with the most?**

I found Sean Penn a very nice guy to work with and also Nicole Kidman in fact most of the actors and actresses I have been in films with I have got on very well with them all.

**I suppose you have become friends with many of the people you worked with throughout your career, is there anyone in particular you'd like to tell us about?**

Sidney Portier stands out by far the most and closest friend I have had in this business of knowing and working with apart from another actor also a good friend of mine Willy Jonah.

**Have you ever been filming and/or privately visiting Sweden or/and any other of the Scandinavian countries?**

I spent only one day and night in Stockholm around 1975 and liked the little I saw of it.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ANSWERS EARL!**

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