

AN INTERVIEW WITH BOND GIRL MARTINE BESWICKE, OCTOBER 2012

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

[FSWL:] Did you always want to become an actress?

[Martine Beswicke:] I made up my mind to become an actress at the age of 4 years old. I have no idea how this occurred as I had not seen a movie nor did I watch TV until I was 12 years old. I truly believe it was Destiny and it seems I was not terribly happy about it even then, as every time my parents pointed the Brownie camera at me, I burst into tears and ran away. This went on for a short time only of course.

How did you become involved in *From Russia with Love* in the first place?

My very first interview when I returned from Jamaica to London in 1961 was for *Dr. No*. Terence Young, who became a great friend and my future champion, realised that I was totally green and told me to go and get experience as he had a part for me in his next film and he kept his word.

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

I did not read any of the Fleming novels, in fact, I had never even heard of him before going up for *Dr. No*. When I started on *From Russia With Love* it was with 3 weeks rehearsals for the Gypsy Fight.

Tell us about your return to the Bond series in *Thunderball*.

My return to *Thunderball* was because of Terence Young. Saltzman and Broccoli had made it very clear that no Bond Girl could be used twice, however, as the part of Paula Caplan called for an Island Girl....well... Terence fought and won!

How was it like filming on location in the Bahamas?

All of the *Thunderball* locations in the Bahamas were some of the most fabulous places I ever visited for a film set.

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

Sean is a man's man and as far as I remember, the "boys" got on well together.

Did you attend the premieres for FSWL/*Thunderball* and/or any other Bond film premieres over the years?

I only attended the *Thunderball* Premiere which I remembered as BIG!

What are your memories of Cubby Broccoli?

Cubby was a very classy man and I really liked him, although I did not hang out with him and his family much. I was in the Terence/Sean mischief camp!

What are your memories of Harry Saltzman?

Harry was a definite rough diamond but I did have a soft spot for him.

What are your memories of Terence Young?

I can't say enough about Terence Young. I adored him and loved working with him. He was one of the most elegant gentlemen I have ever met with a very mischievous playful side.

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

Mollie Peters, Honor Blackman, Adolfo Celi and myself did Rio de Janeiro for their first Film Festival in 1965. It was total madness as it was the height of Bondmania and the fans almost turned over our Limo on our first appearance, chanting Bond as they rocked the car. Quite scary!

Which is your best and most personal memory from being involved in the Bond series?

My favourite memory of the Bond films is the love and fun fest that was the Nassau shoot. One of the greatest experiences on a film set, ever.

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?

I have no idea why the Bond series has lasted so long; I am still amazed when I meet fans, especially children who are now huge fans of the entire series!

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?

One of the most challenging films I did was *The Penthouse*. When I read the script I was beside myself with fear, only 5 characters in a very claustrophobic environment with long deranged speeches. Peter Collinson convinced me that I would surprise myself, so how could I refuse a director who believed in me.

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

I have enjoyed many people that I have worked with. Terence Young tops the list of directors, although there are several others that were also loved. Again, the list of actors and actresses is very long but Sean Connery and Ralph Bates are up there and Luciana Paluzzi is a favourite.

Which of your films is your personal favourite?

It's hard to say which film is my favourite because each one has a special place in my heart for different reasons.

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?

I am not in touch with a lot of the people I have worked with. Mollie Peters and Luciana Paluzzi are still in my life, even if we do not see each regularly.

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

I visited Stockholm 2 years ago and just loved it. I was amazed at how many Museums there are in the city and I was particularly taken with the fact that we would be dining or having a cocktail and there would be a huge ocean liner next to our window. Also, lovely and friendly people. Would love to come visit again.

What do you think about From Sweden with Love - www.jamesbond007.se?

From Sweden with Love has happily connected me to you.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, MARTINE.

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