



Twenty-one years later, Sean Connery (with toupee) plays James Bond again in "Never Say Never Again."

the movies
Louise Snider

Sean Connery's back, portraying very best Bond

According to Norman Mailer, "Tough guys don't dance." He hasn't seen James Bond. Bond dances a stylish tango as easily as he disarms a hulking thug in "Never Say Never Again" (PG).

Yes, British Secret Service Agent 007 can whirl across a dance floor and still do all the tough-guy things. He disposes of arch-villains, seduces beautiful women, fights off man-eating sharks, rescues damsels in distress and, as a matter of course, saves the world from tyranny.

What's more, he does it with class. And there is no classier James Bond than Sean Connery, who originated the role 21 years ago in "Dr. No." He returns in fine fettle. Toupee or not, Connery still exudes an irresistible combination of urbane manners, muscular physique, quick wit and sexy nonchalance.

The script for Connery's return as Bond was written by Lorenzo Semple and directed by Irvin Kershner. Although the plot is a simple variant of "Thunderball," its wry humor and self-mockery especially suit Connery.

IN THE BEGINNING, for example, Bond/Connery is reminded that he's aging; that he's been out of action for some time; that he's slowing down. Bond is sent to a health spa to be restored through a regimen of exercise, nutrition and herbal enemas.

The movie dwells here only long enough to demonstrate that Bond hasn't become a wimp. He still beds down the nurses, and punches out bullies even when they have an iron jaw and a concrete belly.

The scene then shifts to handsome locales in the Bahamas and the Riviera as M (Edward Fox), Bond's superior, reactivates Bond's 00 status and sends him into the field.

His mission is to discover the whereabouts of two nuclear-armed cruise missiles which SPECTRE (Special Executive for Counterintelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion) has stolen from NATO. It's a mission not lacking in sex, danger, action, adventure and gimmickry.

The casting is very strong, very effective. Max Von Sydow is Ernst Stavro Blofeld, the head of SPECTRE. Klaus Maria Brandauer (the Austrian actor seen in "Mephisto") is Blofeld's demented and deadly deputy, Largo.

KIM BASINGER is Largo's flashdancing mistress, Domino, and Barbara Carrera is Largo's evil cohort, Fatima Blush. Carrera emerges as a real show-stopper and scene-stealer. Outrageously costumed in furs and leathers, boots and bikinis, Fatima is by far the most flamboyant character in the film.

Her wild delight in evil radiates from every move she makes. It's vividly captured in one scene just by the way she rushes down a flight of stairs, her hair and clothes flying behind her.

However, even Fatima can't ruffle Bond's debonair manner or supreme self-confidence. Nor can attempts on his life, high-speed chases or hairbreadth escapes. They are all part of the game which Connery, as Bond, plays so well. And as the song in a previous Bond movie concluded, "Nobody does it better."



Kim Basinger (left) is Domino and Barbara Carrera is Fatima Blush, women in the Bond mode.

upcoming things to do

● 'THE MOUSETRAP'

Agatha Christie's most successful whodunit, "The Mousetrap," continues the 1983-84 Bonstelle Theatre season at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturday, Oct. 21-22, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, on the Wayne State University campus in Detroit. Among cast members are Patricia Kilm of Bloomfield Hills and Michael Victor Mendelson of Farmington Hills.

● DANCE FEVER

Jakks Restaurant and Lounge will hold its first "dance fever" contest, with live music by the Blue Rose Quartet, on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 25234 Greenfield, Oak Park. The quartet is appearing Tuesdays-Saturdays at Jakks. Contestants may come and compete for a prize.

● WEDDING BANDS

The 10th Showcase of Wedding Bands will be held from 7:30-10 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at the Mayflower Meeting House, 455 Main, Plymouth. The showcase is being hosted by the Mayflower Hotel and Entertainment Consultants of America, Inc. Admission is free, and there is a cash bar.

● PAINT CREEK

Workshops and lectures relating to art, poetry, drama, mime and ecology are part of the activity through Nov. 12 at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine, Rochester. The events are tied in with the show there called "Rainbow Woven Forest" by Michigan fiber artist Rosalind Berlin. For further information call 651-4110.

● CIVIC THEATER

The musical comedy "Once Upon a Mattress" will be performed by the Garden City Civic Theatre at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21; Saturday, Oct. 22; Thursday, Oct. 27; Friday, Oct. 28; and Saturday, Oct. 29, at the O'Leary Performing Arts Center, 6500 Middlebelt Road, between Ford and Warren roads. A matinee will be given at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens. For more information call 525-9258.

● AT FOLKTOWN

Peter Alopi in concert will be presented at Folktown at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Southfield Civic Center Parks and Recreation Bldg. on Civic Center Drive, just east of Greenfield. A topical songwriter, the performer has been described as an American satirist. Admission is \$4.50.

● FIRST KEG

A Burgomaster will officially open Mercy College of Detroit's Oktoberfest celebration by tapping the first keg of beer Saturday, Oct. 22, in the college's Conference Center. The event, sponsored by the MCO Alumni Association, is open to the public from 7 p.m. till 1 a.m. Featured will be many Bavarian customs. Music for dancing will be provided by Hans von Bernthal and the Mystic Knights of Jaxx from Detroit.

● 'THE HOLLOW'

The Agatha Christie mystery "The Hollow" will open Saturday, Oct. 22, for 11 performances through Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre, 775 W. Long Lake Road, between Telegraph and Lahser, in Bloomfield Township. Curtain is at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 4:30 p.m. for Sunday matinees. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for senior citizens and children under 12. For reservations call 644-4418.

● MUSICAL OASIS

Matt Watroba will perform contemporary folk and topical songs on guitar at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at the Musical Oasis, 1810 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Watroba has played professionally for 10 years. Admission is \$3.

● SET CONSTRUCTION

The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford will present a set-construction workshop from Monday, Oct. 24, through Saturday, Nov. 12, at the playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly Road, just south of Five Mile Road in Redford. Set construction will be taught from Oct. 24-29 and set painting and decorating from Nov. 10-12. There is

no course fee and class size will not be limited. It is not necessary to attend every session of the workshop. The class will be taught by Robert Oris of Dearborn Heights, an instructor of technical theater at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. For registration information, call 522-0718.

● ANTIQUE SHOW

Arborland Mall's Fall Antique Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 26-29.

and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30, at the mall on Waukegan at U.S. 23 in Ann Arbor. For those interested in oak furniture, a large display of kitchen and bedroom pieces will be available in the booth of Ruby Lee of Plymouth. Returning to the show will be Marge Reynolds of Livonia, with collections of Quimper pottery, sterling spoons, brass candlesticks, old wood kitchen utensils and small pottery and bronze items. Also back with be Grace Pfeiffer of Bloomfield Hills, with her booth of decorative antique accessories.

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