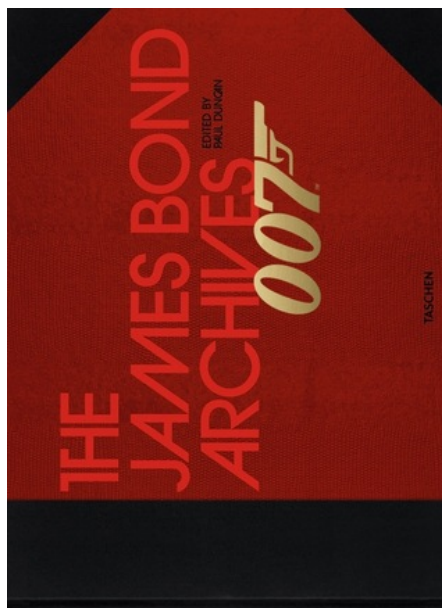




The James Bond Archives

Paul Duncan

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Bond, James Bond: Behind the 007 scenes, from Dr. No to the latest release Spectre Bond, James Bond. Since Sean Connery uttered those immortal words in 1962, the most dashing secret agent in the history of cinema has been charming and thrilling audiences worldwide. This impeccably British character created by author Ian Fleming has starred in 24 EON-produced films, played by 6 different actors over five decades. In collaboration with EON Productions, this trade edition of The James Bond Archives includes all the same stunning imagery and behind-the-scenes knowledge as the original XL book, just with a smaller format and a softer price-tag. The result is an affordable, compact yet comprehensive record of every single Bond film ever made, beginning with Dr. No (1962) and ending with Spectre (2015). The wealth of on-set photos, unseen stills, set designs, storyboards, production memos, is supplemented by an oral history recounted by over 150 cast and crew members. From producers to stuntmen, directors to production designers, these personal narratives relate the true, inside story from the Bond sets, offering outstanding insight into the personalities and processes behind the most successful and longest-running film franchise in cinema history. James Bond materials (c) 1962-2015 Danjaq, LLC and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc. All rights reserved."

The James Bond Archives Details

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Dennis Boccippio says

Fabulous, outstanding, beautiful. Everything worked about this compilation. The design, layout and binding are gorgeous. The photos are lavish and often full/oversized and top quality with just the right mix of iconic and "behind the scenes" to add interest. The text/interviews are interesting enough to read cover to cover (I did and didn't regret it). Over the chapters (one for each film) they begin to get a little formulaic by the time the 80s roll around (not unlike the films themselves): setup on evolution of the story and script, nuggets about the stunts and effects, commentary by some actors, then a final section on promotion, release and reception. That said, the formula works, and the text becomes more interesting again during the Dalton, Brosnan and Craig "rebirths". Completeness all the way through contemporary Skyfall is a major bonus.

At its price tag this book is a bit of an indulgence, but well worth every penny.

Carol says

Von Connery bis Craig: Zum 50. Geburtstag des Geheimagenten Ihrer Majestät und der Premiere des aktuellen Kinohits "Skyfall" veröffentlichte der TASCHEN Verlag dieses wohl umfangreichste Werk zu James Bond.

Dieses Archiv vom ersten, 1962 erschienenen "Dr. No", bis zum dato aktuellen James Bond "Skyfall" ist eine wahre Kostbarkeit für Kinoliebhaber und Fans des Meisterspions. Schlägt man es auf, erwartet uns direkt der Abdruck eines Original Cross Plots aus "From Russia with Love" und man taucht ein in die Welt Hollywoods. Es beginnt mit dem Interview des Playboy mit dem Bond-Schöpfer Ian Fleming.

Diese bislang umfangreichste Dokumentation beinhaltet unter anderem unveröffentlichte Bilder vor und hinter den Kulissen, Ausschnitte aus Storyboards, handschriftliche Notizen, Filmposter aus diversen Ländern, Telegramme und Schriftstücke rund um die Entstehungsgeschichte. Der renommierte Autor Paul Duncan recherchierte dazu jahrelang in Archiven der Produktionsfirmen. Eine Besonderheit liegt diesem Werk noch bei: ein Original-Filmstreifen von Dr. No, der nur in ersten Auflage des Buches enthalten ist!

Man erfährt geheime Details aus dem Making Of (z.B. dass Ian Fleming gar nicht so überzeugt von Sean Connery war, bis er den fertigen Film gesehen hatte und seine Meinung revidierte). Hinzu kommen Regisseure, Mitarbeiter und Schauspieler der einzelnen Produktionen selbst zu Wort. Die Probleme am Set, die Effekte und kleinen Tricks werden ebenso beschrieben wie die einzelnen Drehorte und die lebenswerten Eigenheiten der Schauspieler. Eingeleitet wird jedes Kapitel mit dem Zitat eines Beteiligten. Als Appendix folgt noch eine ausführliche Chronologie.

Dieses Werk überzeugt allein schon durch seine Präsenz! Ein übergroßes Hardcover-Format mit textilen Kanten, geprägtem Titel auf edler Schlangenlederoptik zieht den Leser magisch an. Man benötigt Tage, ja Wochen, um dieses Archiv wirklich im einzelnen zu sichten. Dazu liegt die komplette deutsche Übersetzung im flexiblen Einband separat bei, wie ein übergroßes Taschenbuch.

Ein passender Umkarton mit Tragegriff erleichtert den Transport, sollte man es jemals aus dem Bücherregal entfernen wollen. Es hat Gewicht und nicht nur in den Worten! Volle fünf Punkte. Eine andere Wertung ist da gar nicht möglich, denn in diesem Buch schlägt das Herz einer Legende!

Gary Fowles says

Great big doorstop of a book, packed with wonderful behind the scenes photos, but lacking any real bite in the text. Films as muddled as QoS are let off very lightly. Despite that though it's a fun enough read. But if you're a huge Bond fan, and you'd have to be to splash out for this, there won't be much in here that you don't already know.

Justin Sorbara-Hosker says

Bought this as a Christmas gift to myself, & I am a good gift giver. Pretty much the ultimate book for the Bond fan - Taschen doing what they do best - big, fantastic looking books.

Art of the Film says

The James Bond Archives is a must-read for fans of the Bond film franchise. This latest edition, edited by Paul Duncan and published by Taschen, is updated and expanded to include new material from the latest film "Spectre".

The book, which contains over 600 pages, does into great detail about each and every bond film to date. In the introduction, it is stated that the editor was given access to more than 100 filing cabinets of production documentation and over one million photos in his effort to compile this book. There have been 24 films over a span of 50+ years, and there is so much information about the films, the stars, and the productions that will be of interest to fans.

The text reads sort of like a journal. The author provides relevant information about each movie in chronological order - this ranges from the earliest notions of the film; to principal photography; to editing and the finishing touches; and of course concluding with the film's release. Also included is dialogue from key creatives on the film - in most cases the director, the producers, as well as members of the cast and crew.

For example, the newest chapter for "Spectre" begins with information about a rights dispute regarding the name SPECTRE and the character Blofeld, before moving on to the complexities of the production. Main commentary is intercut with pieces from director Sam Mendes, co-star Dave Bautista, and production designer Dennis Gassner, among others.

All of this is enhanced with something like 1,000 images. This includes title designs, photos from on-set/location, concept art, etc. The behind-the-scenes pictures are the most interesting because it gives you a peek behind the curtain of what it's like to make a Bond film. Recently it has become more popular for filmmakers and studios to let fans in on their process, but that wasn't always the case - which makes the photos and information included on some of the earlier films such as "Dr. No" and "Goldfinger" all the more valuable.

Some of the information will be of particular interest to filmmakers (or those interested in the process), because every production has it's ups and downs - and to the author's credit the book doesn't shy away from the many problems encountered. But the book also celebrates that which makes a Bond film unique - the cars, the guns, the girls, the stunts, etc. It's really a fascinating look inside the making of James Bond both old and new; and it is fun to see how the movies and the character change over the decades.

A quality franchise like Bond deserves a great book like this one, and I'm happy to own it.

Click to view a photo gallery of the book.

*Thanks to Taschen for providing me a review copy of the book.

Zus2 says

Voor elke James Bond liefhebber! Een mooi vormgegeven boek met foto's en verhalen van alle films. Klein nadeel: hele kleine lettertjes!

Dave says

basically Broccoli family propaganda, but the goddamn treasure trove of beautiful glossy BTS photos and often ridiculous oral histories of each film in the franchise make it a must-own for any Bond fan. note: this tome is about the size of Hervé Villechaize so clear off some room on your shelf
