Column/Joseph J. Romm

Double Bond: Never Say Octopussy Again

There are essentially three kinds of people in the world: Those who think Sean Connery is the real James Bond, those who think Roger Moore is the real James Bond, and those who are no longer reading this article.

Now that a new Bond movie featuring each of these stars is in release, a direct comparison between them is possible.

The important one: best Bond. The two knife-throwing brothers chasing Moore are about as boring as the evil giant stalking Connery. Still, Connery does more cruel but funny things to his would-be killer, like throwing urine in his face. One point to Sean. Score: 005 to 002.

Neither movie has a super-remorseful Bond assassin like Oddjob in Jaws. The two knife-throwing brothers chasing Moore are about as boring as the evil giant stalking Connery. Still, Connery does more cruel but funny things to his would-be killer, like throwing urine in his face. One point to Sean. Score: 005 to 002.

It’s a toughie, but Connery gets the point for best use of nuclear weapons in a supporting role for his cruise missiles and B-1 bomber. Score: 006 to 002.

Lastly, the best James Bond: There is only one James Bond, and Sean Connery is it. Roger Moore can go back to TV for all I care. I’m not sure how Moore ever got a learner’s permit, let alone a license to kill. Minus six points to Moore and, of course, three points to Connery. Final score: Connery 007, Moore 000.

Roger Moore

Use of beautiful women for gratuitous sex. Moore does OK here, but Connery loses big: All of the sex in Never Say Never Again is incorporated into the plot. Connery loses two points. Score: 004 to 002.

Moore wins easily for most contrived plot. In Never Say Never Again, the storyline is taken almost intact from Thunderball, an earlier Bond movie starring Connery — back when the plot was even a slight resemblance to Ian Fleming’s books and were, therefore, utterly ridiculous. In Octopussy, however, we are asked to believe that a mad Russian general plots to detonate a nuclear weapon on the ground in a West German military base so that everyone will think it was a nuclear accident and peace scientists will, in turn, force NATO to pull out all its nuclear weapons allowing a Soviet tank invasion.

Right. Two points to Moore. Score: 004 to 006.

For least acting, Moore is a clear winner again as he almost effortlessly glides through the entire movie. Sean Connery in an aging James Bond shows too much depth and too much character. Two points to Moore. Score: 006 to 004.

Back to the real reason for Bond movies: attractive women. If you’ve seen one fantastically gorgeous and sexy woman who throws herself at British superagents in their mid fifties, you’ve seen them all. No points awarded. Score: 004 to 006.

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