

# SPY SPECIAL

➤ Pierce Brosnan spills the beans about his latest release

He's been a criminal, a detective and all-round charmer and now, he's back to playing a spy for the first time since he played MI 6 agent 007, in the *James Bond* films. **Pierce Brosnan** talks to **Rhea Dhanboora** about what it was like filming *The November Man* and much more

Recently released film, *The November Man*, justifies Pierce's belief that he still has what it takes to look convincing in an action-thriller film. The handsome Irish actor may not be James Bond any more, but we're glad he's back chasing bad guys and charming women in his new role. His new film revolves around the novel by Bill Granger, titled *There Are No Spies* and is based on Peter Devereaux, an ex-CIA agent, who must protect a witness, while teaching his CIA protege the ropes of the spy trade and holding important information about the Chechen War (Russia). Take a look at what he's telling us about the film and his role.

**Tell us about *The November Man* and your role in it.**

Peter is a dark character. 'Every time he goes to the city, everyone dies like it is winter'—that's a line from the book that is the perfect metaphor for his life. He has a gun and a knife—and knows how to use both effectively. Though he may question the morals and ethics of his job—especially aspects of state sanctioned murder—he is still capable and ruthless if he needs to be. There's nothing black or white about Devereaux, he's pretty lethal.

**Do you identify with the character you play?**

Spy films give me goosebumps. Even though Peter is extremely street smart, I am not very sure how I identify myself with him. But, sometimes, it's good to play someone you are not!

**So, is that why you wanted to do the film?**

After *Golden Eye* [a James Bond film], I wanted to produce something with my production company, Irish Dreamtime. We bought the rights of the book, *There Are No Spies*, and that's when Roger [Donaldson] and I decided to make a film.

**Right — this is the first time you're playing a spy since being in the 007 franchise! How is this film different?**

It took us five years to make this film. After acquiring the rights, I wanted to produce something that I was passionately interested in. I also wanted to do something for my fans. The art of film-making has been a passion, so that has continued in the work I do.

**Okay, we have to ask this one! You were James Bond for so long — what was it like switching from playing such an iconic character; do you think it's changed the way you approach roles?**

I definitely struggled to get under the skin of the suave British sleuth, who I played in four films between 1995's *Golden Eye* and 2002's *Die Another Day*. I had my own insecurities when I was portraying Bond. Daniel (Craig) is a brilliant Bond. He owns it a 100%. But, I had a fairly good audience with my days as the spy. It was fertile ground for me. I have been very receptive of my James Bond act!

**Olga Kurylenko, who plays Alice in the film, is no stranger to spy films either — she was in *Quantum of Solace*. Did you talk about the Bond franchise a lot?**

Olga is a great girl. She is very hard-working and extremely talented. She understood Alice well and I think she has done complete justice to her role. As for 007... she told me she is a big fan of mine and loved me as James Bond!

**You mentioned that you and Roger decided to make this film together. What was it like working with him?**

I have worked with Roger on *Dante's Peak* and had the most wonderful time. He's a good friend, and somebody who I deeply admire and respect.

He knows the art of story-telling and how to preserve the drama of a scene. His instincts for the emotional beats are so well founded, because he invests so much of himself into it. It is always a pleasure working with him, and it was on *The November Man* too. It was great doing some magnificent stunts under his direction.

**Australian actor Luke Bracey is also in this film with you — and you've got a few fight scenes! What were scenes together like?**

Luke is fearless, courageous, and has got talent at his fingertips; it's a beautiful thing to behold. When I see him, I re-live the same passion and it is great working with someone who is so enthusiastic. I am sure he has a long way to go in the industry. I remember him talking about how it took him a while to realise that he working with Pierce and not Bond.

**What were some of the some of the most challenging scenes to shoot?**

We had little bit of a tough time shooting in Belgrade, where there were explosions, a few car sequences, driving in rush-hour traffic and the people there were just amazed by what was happening around them! But, it was exciting to perform these complicated car stunts with my Bond stuntman, Mark Moltram and blow up a van in the middle of a city.

**With all the stunts — you must have had to get really fit to play this role! How did you go about it? Would you do it again?**

Generally, at the age of 61, one's bones start giving up. For me, it's a new day every day. I enjoy what I do and will continue to do this as long as I can. Mark (my stuntman) helps me a lot. I was a good runner in school and I played a lot of rugby — which I'm sure helped me stay fit.

**Tell us about some funny moments on set?**

Well, I remember, we were shooting in a market in Belgrade (which is a beautiful city) and these guys were running with guns in their hand — some of the public got really scared and started shouting! It took us a while to settle things later... it was quite amusing.

**What's in the pipeline for you now?**

I have six films coming up that are all quite interesting: *Love Punch* with Emma Thompson, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival last September, *A Long Way Down* with Aaron Paul, Toni Collette and Imogen Poots, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in February, *The Coup* with Owen Wilson and *Survivor* with Milla Jovovich and Dylan McDermott, for director James McTeigue. I'm also currently shooting for *The Moon and The Sun*, for director Sean McNamara.

**Anything else you'd like to tell your fans in Mumbai?**

I'd like to thank all of them for being with me and watching my films. And also — please watch *The November Man*! As the film says, 'A spy is never out of the game.'

**PIERCE PICKS:**

**Something that you would love to be part of:** *Liberty or Death* by David Cook.

**Your favourite place in the world:** Florida.

**Someone you'd love to work with:** Matthew McConaughey.

**Someone who inspired you most:** My mother

**If you weren't an actor, you would be...** A film maker or an artist.