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SPEAKERS

Edroy Odem, Bruce Scivally, Scot McKay



Edroy Odem 00:05

From the mist and shrouded mountaintop fortress that is x&y Communications Headquarters. You're listening to the World famous mountaintop podcast. And now your host Scot McKay



Scot McKay 00:18

All right, welcome again, gentlemen to get another episode of the world famous mountaintop podcast. My name is Scot McKay at Scot McKay on Twitter and parlour real Scot McKay on Instagram. Scot McKay on YouTube. You can find us on the web as always at mountaintop podcast calm and be sure to join the Facebook group of like minded men such as yourself at the mountain top summit on Facebook. All right, guys. We have a really good show today. This is a show that I've kind of always wanted to do, and never got around to it. But with the recent passing of none other than the great Sean Connery. I decided, Hey, you know what, as a tribute, particularly to his greatness as the iconic James Bond character, I wanted to find the guy who was the world expert in all things James Bond, and guess what? I got that guy. His name is Bruce Sibley. He's, he's in the radio, television and film world out in Los Angeles. And he's also the author, along with a guy named John Cork, have a book called James Bond the legacy and I want to welcome him Bruce Sibley, welcome to the show.



Bruce Scivally 01:26

Thank you, Scott. It's great to be here.



Scot McKay 01:28

Yeah. Likewise, man, and we were chit chatting a little bit before we got started. And you know, you are a cinema file of major proportions. You're big into westerns and all kinds of movies and or even and even have an interest in Sean Connery beyond his roles as James Bond, you and I were talking about the time he played Robin Hood, opposites. A Marian played by none other than Audrey Hepburn Of course, who was fantastic. And so of course, the reach that Sean Connery had himself as an actor, you know, Hunt for Red October. The Highlander, of course, which would probably be a whole show unto itself was iconic for reasons above and beyond James Bond. And I guess a great place to start would be to talk about Sean Connery, the man even off camera. What was he the oldest man ever to be voted People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive. So I mean, there was a Mystique that was off script and, and kind of came across in the real world also,



Bruce Scivally 02:30

right? Yeah, I think it was the 1980s. Around the time he did Hunt for Red October. I think he was voted Sexiest Man Alive. He would have been in his late 50s 60s. By then,



Scot McKay 02:42

I distinctly remember he was in his early 60s voted the sexiest man alive.



Bruce Scivally 02:47

Well, the early 90s Yeah, yeah. But yeah, I mean, he was a he was one of those guys who just had a charisma that on film, it just leapt off the screen. You know, even when you see the early films, that he's only got a big part and or you watch Star Bo guild and the little people or Tarzan's greatest adventure. He's one of the you know, henchmen in that when he's on screen, you just you just kind of riveted to him.



Scot McKay 03:10

And not to be overlooked. He was Indiana Jones, his



Bruce Scivally 03:12

dad. Right? which was interesting, because he was only about 10 years older than Harrison Ford. This is Sean Connery. We're talking he might have been very busy when he was 10.



Scot McKay 03:24

Well, you know, makeup artists are amazing, right? Yes. But you know, great role there, too.



Bruce Scivally 03:30

Surely one and another one where he you know, he really kind of pops off the screen and



Scot McKay 03:34

that film? Yeah, most definitely. So, obviously, you know, maybe it's not obvious we have some younger guys here who maybe have never seen a Sean Connery James Bond movie, and I'll just tell you guys, let's just throw it on the table. They're amazing. They're incredible. And, you know, if you're not so into old movies, I can kind of understand that. But you know, they're all of course period pieces nowadays. So I mean, they're worth watching. If you're a car guy, first of all, just because the cars in them are always amazing.



Bruce Scivally 04:02

Yeah, I always say if you've never seen a Bond film just start with Goldfinger. Oh,



Scot McKay 04:09

what a great place to start. I couldn't agree more with that sentiment. But, of course, James Bond was the first cinematic portrayal of James Bond, right, who's an EMI six, secret agent with the license to kill designation of double oh seven, you know, he's a top level agent. And of course, this character is based on the books by Ian Fleming. Right so the James Bond character was conceptualized by an author and then brought to film personified by none other than Sean Connery,



Bruce Scivally 04:44

right and Flaming Gorge into Secret Service in World War Two. So he really knew their

world. And he wrote the first book *Casino Royale*. Just before he got married. He said he was kind of writing it as a distraction to keep them from thinking about getting married for the first time in his 40s. But I think those books really resonated when they started coming out in the 1950s. Because England was still under rationing from World War Two, they were under rationing into the 1960s. So I think this character who traveled around the world, drove fancy cars, you know, going to the the most exotic places and meeting all these amazing women. That was something that your average person, not only in the UK, but around the world is something that was, you know, they weren't ever going to experience.



Scot McKay 05:32

Yeah, absolutely. And of course, the movies turned all that into a visual, which made it even more powerful. I mean, he's going all over the world. The women who he's associating with and absolutely succeeding wildly, with all the sudden became visual to you, you could see these women. And as he goes all over the world, he's meeting women who we would think of as exotic, for lack of a better word. And he goes to Japan in *You Only Live Twice* and he's interacting with beautiful Japanese women in that movie goes to Australia. Of course, British women his famed long term mutual flirtation with Miss money, Penny, who is basically his boss's secretary, right, and one who organizes his life or whatever she does. I mean, in later films, more modern films like *Skyfall*, for example, Miss money, Penny takes a much more directly adventurous role, you know, like driving a Land Rover, racing a Land Rover dangerously through the streets in Istanbul, Turkey with James Bond, you know, but in those early movies, with James Bond, obviously, we didn't have a rating system yet in film, so every movie had to be PG to some degree, you know, maybe pG 13 ish they got away with and a few of those James Bond movies, but there was a charming innocence to James Bond, and his incredible facility with making women love him, and I don't think it's simply directly attributable to how devastatingly handsome a 30 to 35 year old Sean Connery was, there was something he did, there was an evolved masculinity about him that to this very day. It's not only iconic, but very charming to us as guys, and how would you describe that? What kind of adjectives would you use? What kind of descriptors would you put on how James Bond masculinity came across specifically, as portrayed by Connery?



Bruce Scivally 07:29

Just one word confidence? Because I think that's something that both men and women gravitate towards is if there's a guy in the room, who's just supremely confident and not arrogant, because that's overconfidence, but just confidence, someone that, you know, if stuff goes down, he's going to be able to deal with it, you know, but he's also confident in

himself. And Conrad said that when he started playing the role that he looked at Bond as being a centralist, and what he meant by that is that, again, he's someone who really enjoys all the fine clothes, he enjoys the fine food he enjoys, you know, just the sensations of all of that are what keeps bond going. Kind of an aesthetic.



Scot McKay 08:09

He just loves beauty.



Bruce Scivally 08:11

Exactly. Yeah,



Scot McKay 08:12

yeah, I see that. I think that's where the evolution of the masculinity comes in. He comes off to me, even though he's only a mere 32 years old. But I mean, you know, his older to a lot of the younger guys listening, but he comes off as the quintessential example of the older guy who younger women would love.



Bruce Scivally 08:29

Well, and you have to think, too, that because of World War Two, a lot of young men grew up very fast. So men in their late 20s, early 30s, in that period, had a demeanor of old man, they were very experienced, they'd been through a lot. You know, when we were doing John Cork, and I were producing the special feature, sort of James Bond DVDs and interviewing a lot of the guys who worked on those early films. What became evident to me very early on, is pretty much every guy on the crew, war, World War Two veteran, some of them have even been in Special Operations and doing spy work. So they all really, truly knew that James Bond world, you know, down to their fingertips.



Scot McKay 09:13

Yeah, that's a fascinating observation. It was directly relatable in sort of a fantastic way in the true sense of the word to the contemporary people at the time those movies were released. That's a brilliant observation. And yet they still stand the test of time. And you look at Connery's James Bond, and you say to yourself, man, you know, you're right. The confidence just exudes from that guy. And I tell guys all the time, the absolute number one

differentiator between men who get women and guys who don't succeed with women is they believe women should like them. They believe that they're attractive to women. And I think the other trait that Sean Connery was very good at portraying was a genuine love for women. I mean, he wasn't angry at them. He wasn't bitter towards them. He was amenable to women coming in and out of his life, didn't judge them, didn't treat them poorly, always treated them with respect, even as he expected to be loved by them, which, unfortunately, is sort of a rare cocktail of traits. And today's man, isn't it?

B

Bruce Scivally 10:21

Well, it is. And again, I think it goes back to that confidence. Because if you're very confident in yourself, you don't really need anyone else. So if you're with someone else's, because you choose to be and you enjoy their company, now, would



Scot McKay 10:33

you describe Sean Connery is James Bond is an Alpha Man.

B

Bruce Scivally 10:37

Yes, I was just because of all his abilities. I mean, he was a guy who could certainly hold design in a fight, he was good at firearms. Seems like he could drive or fly anything. He sat down and probably pilot a submarine for that matter. You know, it's just anything mechanical he had a facility for and I think that's another part of those films as well. Is that a time before technology is just totally overrun our society. technology itself is very exotic, and bonds seem to vary at home with it, even though he often ended up destroying the technology as he used it. But yeah, I mean, again, I think he was just just charismatic confident. I don't think Sean Connery is James Bond ever felt out of place? in any situation?



Scot McKay 11:23

Yeah, he was kind of like a jack of all trades, and a master of all of them at the same time, which of course, it's pure fantasy. But boy, does it appeal to guys. I mean, it's just a man's man story. Even though it's the diametric opposite, in terms of texture to say, a spaghetti western with Clint Eastwood. It's a completely different set of masculine traits and a completely different world. And yet, you almost feel as if James Bond could be thrust into the Old West and thrive even there, right?



Bruce Scivally 11:52

Well, it's what jellico? Oh, but no, I think the western heroes there's a, sometimes a different aspect of especially the spaghetti western or Eastern type characters, where there's a harshness to them.



Scot McKay 12:06

Yeah, they're not they're a little more rough around the edges. They're not this evolved, gentlemen, for sure. Right? They've



Bruce Scivally 12:11

had a much harder life. They're not the guy who went to Eton. And you know, got a university education. So



Scot McKay 12:16

that's 100%. Fantastic. Yeah. You mentioned these abilities and comfort level with technology, and traveling the world and being able to go on all of these different adventures and living a life of danger and suspense. All of that appeals to the most baseline sensibilities of masculinity within us. I mean, deep down, we thirst for all of those things. I had the pleasure of getting to know a guy years ago who came out with a program for men, you could buy it online, and it was called live like bond. And I was just fascinated with that as a tutorial for men. And you know, he would have told you himself, that, you know, the expectation isn't that you're going to become Sean Connery is James Bond, or Roger Moore's James Bond, let alone Daniel Craig's James Bond, which is, you know, a more fantastic image than ever. But what was it that made him who he was? What are the elements of that personality of that lifestyle that you can cultivate for yourself even to getting to the point where you're 10% of where James Bond was, and I always loved that idea. And in fact, I had decided to invite that guy to be a part of my team with his expertise and his program, kind of like I did with Rob Brinded and James Knight and trace loft and their programs that we have in our portfolio. Now here at x&y communications. I wanted to do that with live like bond also and make that part of the x&y communications brand. I was so impressed with it, but unfortunately, of course, he got sued. And that was the end of that program. But I think it's fascinating that there really was a market to tap into this idea of being like James Bond. I mean, not just subjectively, but in some objective ways. I mean, the gadgets Okay, you talked about gold finger being the first movie you'd want to watch. Now when I was a kid, I mean, I'm dating myself here, but I had a little Corgi model, you know, 140 third scale model of that Aston Martin dbx.

Five from that movie. That was the coolest thing I had ever seen when I was like a nine or 10 year old kid and saw that movie, right. My parents finally let me watch it. I mean, had a ejector seat button in the stick shift and you rocketed that guy out of the car, and the license plates would turn so you know, you couldn't identify the car and it had smoke screen and oil slicks that came out of the back and machine guns in the front and the spinners. You know, the knockoff spinners on the wire wheels would actually project out with hydraulics, you know, and, you know, slice the tires in the car next to it. God that was the coolest thing I've ever seen in my life. I'm not sure I've seen anything cooler since. And of course, you know, other movies like You Only Live Twice. He has this little mini helicopter with rocket launchers and heat seeking missiles. And that's really cool. And then you know, The Spy Who Loved Me the Lotus turns into a submarine of all things. It's just amazing. The gadgetry is renowned. You know, he's got cigarettes that launch missiles out of the ends of them, all these little spy gadgets. And of course, you know, that appeals so majorly to men. It's just really is a smorgasbord of all those things we as guys absolutely aspire to my question to you is, what do you think really is attainable from the James Bond persona in the real world? Because you know, we don't have cigarettes that shoot rockets. We don't have Aston Martin's with ejector seats. Hell, we don't even have Aston Martin's, for the most part, what can we learn and get if not by osmosis from the James Bond persona? How can we reasonably emulate the James Bond character successfully at all?

B

Bruce Scivally 16:04

I think for me, that really begins with just one thing. And that's curiosity, having an open mind, because thankfully, through my work, I've been able to travel a little bit, you know, I've been to Paris, I've been to Berlin. And I will say that don't believe any of the stereotypes always sort of all my life all the French hate Americans. It's not true. I, I made it fine. In France, every cat I love just sitting in the cafes and watching the people pass by and so on. I think the distinguishing characteristic is, again, that curiosity when you're traveling, don't have an expectation that the place you're going to is going to be like the place you just left, years ago, and I'm in England with a friend of mine, we were we were on a package tours for summer went to the UK. And a lot of the other people on the tour are old retirees. And every restaurant they take us to that people were like, This isn't like the bacon and eggs we get in Ohio or this surprise, surprise, and I just kept wanting to slap them and say you're not in Ohio. You're in London, it's supposed to be different. That's the point. Yeah.



Scot McKay 17:10

And they're looking for McDonald's. Right.



Bruce Scivally 17:12

And I think that, again, is where the ugly American or the French hate Americans thing comes from, is that Americans tend to travel and take those expectations with them. Instead of being open minded, and trying to experience something new and enjoying it, you know, yeah, maybe



Scot McKay 17:27

you're not liked because you were unlikable to begin with.



Bruce Scivally 17:30

It's remarkable. But yeah, I think if you if you keep an open mind, and you're always learning because I think bond in his line of work, always had to know the latest gadget still, these days, the latest software and so on. You know, I think you have to just always be improving yourself. You know, I mean, when you read the novels, yes, James Bond's smokes like a chimney and drinks like a fish. But he also does a lot of sit ups and push ups and calisthenics and you know, he's, he keeps himself in tip top shape. So, you know, there's a lot of a lot of effort that goes into it. But again, keeping an open mind and just enjoying those things as they as you experience them, you know, enjoy life as it comes. Which bond also does because he never knows he's going to be alive from one moment to the next.



Scot McKay 18:13

Yeah, he seems like he's happy, go lucky and doesn't worry or obsess about things too much. Takes life as it comes. All of those I think are traits that we can emulate solid takes there, for sure. I love how you mentioned world travel. And cities like Berlin and Paris definitely have Mystique surrounding them. You know, we mentioned Istanbul, Turkey, which obviously has wonderful Mystique surrounding it too. And I always like to put at the top of my bucket list. places that have extreme Mystique to them. places that are nothing like the United States are different enough that there's something to be gleaned from the Curiosity I bring along with me on those trips. So I think that's a wonderful angle on this conversation. And I really appreciate that you that you mentioned that. And obviously we also mentioned confidence. We talked a lot about that around here. As for curiosity, I think that's been mentioned in probably 80% of the shows dating back to when we did a show, actually on the topic of curiosity with Todd cashton, who's an author on the subject

and curiosity is such an incredibly valuable arrow in your quiver. You know, it gives you a whole toolbox of resources to draw from to be more interesting, and to bring more excitement and enjoyment to life in general. And that's certainly a James Bond trade for sure. I want to turn our attention right now specifically to James Bonds facility with women. And you know, how could we possibly have this conversation without talking about the bond girls themselves and I think I want to go there first to kind of tee this up. If you haven't seen a James Bond movie or haven't seen one in a while. It may be tempting to slip into this assumption that Bond women are going to be these these airheaded supermodels who really are eye candy, at best and nothing else. When really, I can't think of a single bond girl who was like that. I mean, there's the cheesecake element, if you will of them being hot and sexy and scantily clad me, my wife and I, you know, just in the last couple of weeks since Sean Connery passed, we've watched a couple of his movies, and we watched You Only Live Twice. And we were both chuckling to ourselves at the end about how the Bond girl is hiking, and going into the crater at the end and getting shot out and being in harm's way, like a total tomboy, and she's still in a bikini. And then she goes back and gets all the troops and comes back. And she's still in a bikini. And Emily's like, didn't she have a chance to change that? I mean, you know, she's not exactly a hiking outfit. And of course, you know, we'll grant cinematic license there. But indeed, Bond women were, of course, beautiful and sexy and intriguing. But they were also not shrinking violence. Hardly ever. You know, there may be a passing example here and there of a woman maybe who was more so than others. But certainly in the early Bond movies, even Miss Money Penny had a little edge about her. She wasn't the shrinking violet woman who was incapable of protecting herself. She was quick on her feet. Sometimes they knew how to fight sometimes they were handy with the hardware and weaponry and could fend for themselves. They're always very smart. And I think, also very crucial to remember, they could go toe to toe matching Wits with James Bond, usually, there was banter back and forth. James Bond would flirt with her say something really suave to her. And she would have this comeback that would come across like Yeah, not so fast, buddy. And then he would have to come up with something equally Woody. And there was not only a rapport between James Bond and the women, who were his love interest because of that, but there was just excellent repartee between them. I mean, they were bantering and talking and the dialogue was always just flat out delightful. And that would have been virtually impossible. had those women not had that quick wit about them and had that ability to stand up to him as it were. You know what I mean?

B

Bruce Scivally 22:21

Yeah, you there's a lot to unpack there. Sure. First off, You Only Live Twice to me is kind of like it's almost like a fever dream, the logic of that movie, because aside from the woman in the bikini, remember when bond starting his journey up that volcano, he's dressed as an

Alma Islander, and yet he gets to the top of the volcano, takes off the Elmo Islander thing, and he's got his ninja uniform on underneath it. So apparently, he was sweating going up the volcano, because he's wearing like three layers of clothing.



Scot McKay 22:54

Go figure.



Bruce Scivally 22:55

It's a lot of you know, it doesn't hold up to a lot of cool scrutiny. But it's a really fun adventure. I really enjoy that movie,



Scot McKay 23:02

as my son would say it's a movie.



Bruce Scivally 23:04

Yes. But going back to Doctor No, the first film, first sort of bondwoman we see an ad i think is Miss Money Penny. Well, there's Sylvia trench at the table. Sylvia trench was supposed to have been an ongoing characters, she turns up again and From Russia with love. And it was Terence young, the director of those two films, he had the idea that all the Bond films account to start with bond trying to get together at Sylvia trench and being called away to a mission. But then when he didn't direct the third one that tradition ended. Then we see Miss Money Penny who lives Maxwell said that she and Sean Connery decided between them that the backstory of bond and money Penny is that when he was a very young agent, and she was in the secretarial pool, they went away and spent a really nice weekend together at a cottage and have that history with each other. So there's so that kind of underpins all that playful banter they have in EMS office. Then we get to honey writer and she's no shrinking violet. cuz she's a woman who's basically been on her own since she was a teenager in lives by collecting these rare shells and selling them in bond comes across her on Dr. Knows Island. So she's a very, very independent woman for 1962 and that film came out next open From Russia with love, we get the Russian agent who's really just kind of a pawn and a specter plot. But very good performance. I think by the actress Daniela Bianchi, Goldfinger, we get a lesbian hench woman in Pussy Galore, which is one of the more tongue in cheek Fleming names from the novels, rather provocative for the early 60s. That movie sort of started the tradition of bond encountering three women during the course of the adventure, and the first one he

encounters is a sacrificial lamb who gets killed off a third of the way through the movie, but gives him the emotional motivation to keep on with the mission memorably getting painted from heaven. to toe and gold paint, yes, and then go to the second sacrificial lamb character in her sister, who comes through Avenger and gets killed by our jobs hat. And then bond because he's so Uber masculine turns to lesbian woman straight by the end. So it's a bit of fantasy. But you know, one of the things about these movies is the women, especially in the 60s films, they were by and large, pretty capable. They weren't just, you know, standing around, watching as the fight scenes occurred, they would actually get involved in them and so on. But you also had a sort of similar character on TV and mrpl on the Avengers. So I think that's something that Brits are kind of in the forefront of more so than the Americans have, showing women who are very capable and just as just as handy as the men. But the key thing to remember, I think watching those films from a male perspective is they were still fantasy figures, bonds of fantasy figure. These are movies written by men directed by men, and bond, betting all these beautiful women, it's a lot easier to do when it's scripted that way,



Scot McKay 26:08

you mentioned that you only the twice is rather like a fever dream. And I think it's fascinating that you would mention that because of course, the screenplay for that movie was written by none other than Roald Dahl of Willy Wonka fan.



Bruce Scivally 26:22

He and Ian Fleming were very good friends as it transitions. Matter of fact, there's a Roald Dahl short story about a guy who somehow gets very heightened abilities to hear things, and it drives him mad when at the end, there's a man mowing his lawn, and he can hear the blades of grass screaming. That idea came from Ian Fleming, you know, so that's so they did share ideas back and forth. They had known each other I guess, since two World War Two days. And the novels rolling up twice is very different than the movie. That was probably one of the first movies that really used the title of a plumbing novel. And throughout most of the plot, you know, well, there's



Scot McKay 27:01

a lot of Roald Dahl in that movie. You can see it, it's rather transparent



Bruce Scivally 27:07

yesterday. Yes, I read a treatise once or someone kind of compared it to Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and so on. Yeah, I mean,



Scot McKay 27:15

when you realize that there's that connection to be made, you start seeing evidence of it within that movie everywhere, which is, you know, an aside here, getting back to Sean Connery and the women in his movies. We're talking about how these women are not shrinking violence. But there's something else that I think is worth mentioning. And that's that Sean Connery. His character is not owning these women. They're not melting at his feet. They're not just responding to every command and acting on every whim. I mean, sometimes the women in these movies save his ass, right? I mean, they save him from getting killed in the moment. They're the ones who are heroines to him. The other thing is, a lot of times these women will insult him, reject him, not be so interested at first try to kill him or hurt him. And the key factor is the James Bond character played by Connery is never fazed by that. He's got this incredibly powerful notion within him that women don't want to hurt me, and therefore they really can't hurt me. That's something that I've talked about in relation to David to company's character, Hank moody in the show, Californication, which, you know, for all I know, may have been inspired by Congress, James Bond in that regard. But there's something incredibly powerful about dropping the fear of women and expecting optimistically for women to treat you, right. Because ultimately, the women respond to him leading in that direction. And you know, it's a cinematic portrayal, for sure, yeah. Okay. But those women end up, loving and adoring him and being charmed by him. And it all starts with him just not being fazed by their questionable behavior or their distaste towards them up front or them even trying to keep things really super professional when he'd rather just make out with them. And I just think that's always been powerful. That image is powerful. And as I've matured, as a man, as I've grown in my own abilities with women, over the years, I've realized it's not too far off from the real world truth, once you start to master some of these skills, when you stop fearing women and what they might do to you, granted, I mean, a woman could put a bullet through your heart, she could run over you with a car, but when your attitude is these women don't want to hurt me, therefore, I'm not going to fear women as much. There's real world ramifications of that that are super powerful and very, very good.



Bruce Scivally 29:55

Yeah, and again, I think that goes back to the Connery's portrayal of bond as Someone who just takes life as it presents itself. And he's the same with the women, he doesn't put an expectation on them. I think that's where a lot of guys get in trouble is they expect

something. And when they don't get it, they get angry, or lash out or act out.



Scot McKay 30:15

And that's just childish and not evolved.



Bruce Scivally 30:19

Right? Yeah. If you have no expectation and just accept things as they happen, then like, it's a lot easier. And your relationships with not only women, but men, people at work, whomever, everything gets a lot easier to just kind of take things as they come and try not to put any expectations on anyone else, you know, and I think we see a lot of that in calories bond and the way he interacts with women and with his interactions with Elmo is a little interesting to make as always feel like Elm is kind of like the parent and bond is, in some ways the teenage boy. Exactly. True. Kind of rebelling against authority a little bit throughout the film, you know?



Scot McKay 30:58

Yes, it's like, you know, M is always putting, and by extension in my six at large, always seems to be putting up with bond despite his shenanigans, because he ends up saving the world in the end. So we kind of have to look the other way, you know, right.



Bruce Scivally 31:12

He produces results, so they're willing to give him a pass on that.



Scot McKay 31:16

Yeah. When they finally rescue him at the end of the movie, he's in a raft, you know, with a beautiful woman making out and waving into a helicopter away. But you know what, let him have this moment, right.



Bruce Scivally 31:26

It's also worth noting, to me, most of those early films are written by Richard maibaum. Or at least co written by a bomb, actually, I think, Dr. Know and from Russia would love. There was a woman named Johanna Horwood who initially adapted the adaptation of the book

into a screenplay. So there's actually a woman writing James Bond did this for the interim there before May, Bob comes in and polishes up the final script. But, you know, I may, Obama's a guy who'd been around since the 1940s. You know, he wrote the original ransom, which was remade as a Mel Gibson film later. Yes, sure. But he did the original version average, I think, at Glen Ford in the late 40s. But he was a producer and writer. And one of the things that screenwriters know is, the best way to define your character is not to have them talking about their feelings or given soliloquy, and all that is to have the characters around them, comment on them and talk about them. And there is a Bond film that you know, you said you haven't seen the peers positive movies. GoldenEye does that from frame one, because that's the film they made after a six year hiatus of lawsuits and not being able to make a bog calm. By the time they finally made one, they thought we've kind of lost a generation here, we need to reintroduce the character. And in the interim, the Berlin Wall had fallen. So the worry was how do we present a Cold War character in the world? That isn't the Cold War anymore? and Bruce Fierstein, the writer of that, or final script writer on it, his point of view was the world has changed, but James Bond has it. Interesting. What you get, especially in the beginning of movie is all the M and Moneypenny and all the other characters defining who bond is for the audience, you know, money, saying, unlike the woman we send out to about George, I haven't fallen for your charms, or am calling him a sexist misogynist dinosaur. says that we get an idea. That's how people perceive Bob. It also has the effect as a viewer if you're sympathizing with bond to go, Oh, no, come on. He's not that bad. So it kind of puts you on his side. So it's an interesting, interesting tool they pulled out there for that film, but I think it's an entertaining film just for that. Oh, my



Scot McKay 33:38

goodness, a dinosaur is even worse than a Neanderthal now, isn't it?



Bruce Scivally 33:43

Yes. Well,



Scot McKay 33:44

you know, what's interesting also is getting back to how James Bond interacts with women. He's a fine example of a guy who wouldn't be written up in a me to post he doesn't force himself on women. He's giving women the option to be with him or not perpetually, with the expectation that they will take that option and act on it. Not that he's going to pin her against the wall and rape her and do anything against her will or he's

not being pushy or not being presumptive. He's accepting that women have agency over their own sexuality. He's just again very confident, and in being happy go lucky. He's also what I call warm and light while he does it. So he's got this charming sense of humor, making women feel safe and comfortable with him and the possibility of making out with him and it just quite literally works like a charm.



Bruce Scivally 34:38

Well, I think you could argue that the scene in the barn and gold fingers and near rape with Pussy Galore, but you know, they started off doing Judo moves on each other and end up in a in a kiss. It's all for play. Yes, it's quite again, she's not resisting him anymore. She's throwing her arms around them and kissing him.



Scot McKay 34:55

Right. Exactly.



Bruce Scivally 34:56

So but why would say to As as much as we like to think that the bondwoman aren't all Airheads, there are some. And I think particularly once you get into the films of the 70s and the ones that stand out for me are Tiffany Case and Diamonds Are Forever, who starts off as a very capable diamond smuggler. But by the end of that movie, she's basically playing the airhead so that that character wasn't as fleshed out as well as it could have been, I think on on paper,



Scot McKay 35:26

as well. We're traipsing into the Roger Moore world at that point. Anyway.



Bruce Scivally 35:31

That's this. It's the transition to the Bond films from the 60s into the 70s. Yeah, and Mary Good night and Man with the Golden Gun twos total Airheads. So



Scot McKay 35:39

I think that's fair, although both of those are fantastic movies. I will say about Roger

Moore. I like the James Bond movies themselves with Roger Moore in them, because I think they're, you know, the pace is faster. And there's an element of comedy in those movies that's introduced that I don't know isn't quite as well developed. I mean, there are moments that put a smile on your face and the Connery movies, but certainly, Roger Morris James Bond, those movies have more comedic elements. I mean, you look at the character of Jaws and Moonraker, for example, and he's a caricature. He's kind of funny. And of course at the end when he meets a girl and gets married, that's standard comedy writing. And you don't see that so much in Sean Connery's movies. But of course, when you think of the iconic James Bond and the skills with women, Roger Moore was good. But he was no Sean Connery, even by his own admission, you know, in later interviews, but yeah, I couldn't agree more. I mean, the whole pace flow texture. Even the storyline of James Bond movies have changed so much over the years, it's hard to compare one James Bond to the next at least directly.

B

Bruce Scivally 36:51

Well, I'll tell you what Lewis Maxwell said about doing Bond films with Roger Moore as opposed to doing James Bond films at Katari. And when asked what she felt the difference in their portrayals was, she said, Roger Moore's the kind of man you'd want to have as your husband. And Sean Connery is demand you'd want to have as your lover. Well, there



Scot McKay 37:08

you go. You know, to kind of end up this conversation. I think we'd be remiss if we didn't talk about bond villains, specifically, Ernst Blofeld, you know, played most memorably, in my estimation, by Christoph Waltz. In the later movies, you know, because Christopher Waltz is just fantastic and everything he's ever been in, you know, including all of the Quentin Tarantino movies, of course, where he just shines. But if you go back to the Sean Connery era, and you look at say Donald Pleasance, is Ernst Blofeld, and You Only Live Twice, where he finally shows his face, you know, he's just not going to be attractive to women. And you know it. I mean, he's a weasel and he's boring and he's shifty, and he doesn't do what he says he's gonna do. And here it is. Okay, I want to throw this on the table. He's stroking a white Persian cat all the time. Which is creepy to women. My wife, this is one of her soap boxes, Bruce, that men who love cats are just creepy. I mean, it's just something mentioned. So this guy kind of personifies, almost, I mean, really, as a caricature, frankly, everything that's just unattractive and creepy and wrong to a woman to the point where you know, famously later on Dr. Evil is Mike Myers. Basically portraying Ernst Blofeld.



Bruce Scivally 38:31

Donald Pleasance, Blofeld at that. Yeah. In particular, yeah. Yeah. And I would say, first off, your wife wouldn't like me then because I love cats.



Scot McKay 38:39

You know, secretly I do, too. I just am allergic to



Bruce Scivally 38:41

cats, largely because not because I'm creepy, but because I'm lazy because if you got a dog, you can take that thing outside two or three times a day. Okay, you just put down a litter box and it's fine, man. You can just ignore it for days on end. But anyways, I digress. You know, I find Donald Pleasance is bloke I think he's as close as you can get to having a snake in a suit, even though Yeah, even awaiting a tan suit at that. Yeah. And even though he says his dialogue is almost hissing, you know, yeah, awful. Just the worst so and you know, he was kind of a last minute replacement in the role they had a Czechoslovakia and Acura it's hard to say. They had a different actor named John Weyrich. And I think after a few days of shooting with John Wick, and you can see him in some of the early publicity stills of the cast on the volcano set and so on. But the director felt like after shooting it in for a few days that he looked too much like Santa Claus. So they wanted to get someone who really looked evil and at the last minute, you know, pretty much everyone was booked up, except Donald Pleasance, and Pleasants. You know, he's a very fine actor. And you know, he had played the devil and greatest story ever told right before that, but he's also about a foot and a half shorter and shorter. Connery and no, didn't have a kind of menacing presence, which is why they gave him that hideous scar down his face and all that just to try to make him look more evil. But his dialogue delivery I think is wonderful, you know before you see his face, just hearing his voice on screen has got a real, you know spine tingling kind of quality to it. Well,



Scot McKay 40:19

I have to give a nod to the genius of that iconic image of this faceless bad guy stroking the white Persian cat gently while planning the destruction of quite literally the entire world. What was that an Ian Fleming element?



Bruce Scivally 40:35

Um, yes. And no Blofeld turned up I believe first and Thunderbolt a novel and then and,

and it's still I think a little bit in dispute. Because that story was developed by Fleming along with Kevin McClory and Jack Whittingham screenwriter, when they were planning on making a James Bond movie in the late 1950s. And the movie project fell through the script didn't get produced, Fleming decided to turn it into a book. The book got published. It didn't give any credit to McClory or Whittingham, they sued him and that suit was settled right before Fleming died right before Goldfinger came out, and basically gave the film rights to the story to McClory unwitting them, along with them getting an acknowledgment in every publication of the book thereafter, is having new people develop the story. But that also, you know, it's a whole other story of getting into how we get Thunderbolt and never say never again and Kevin McClory being a thorn in the producer side and so on. So that's it. That's a whole other hour's worth of episodes.



Scot McKay 41:41

No kidding. But no white person cat in the original novels, right?



Bruce Scivally 41:44

I don't know. I don't think the cat is a part of the novels. It's genius. I mean, it's become an iconic image. Yes, a Blofeld as a character. They call it the Blofeld trilogy because he came back in the novel *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, which to me of the films that is the film along with commercial would love that are closest to the source material. I wonder



Scot McKay 42:04

how many people nowadays watch Austin Powers not realizing where the origin of that Dr. Evil character really was. Because it was so long ago.



Bruce Scivally 42:13

tons of them, I'm sure. Because there was a whole generation that got introduced to James Bond in the 90s. Not through the movies, but through the GoldenEye video game, because that was the first first person shooter video game.



Scot McKay 42:25

But you know, I think it's interesting how anything that happened before we were born is

kind of a black hole to us in many, many, many ways. I mean, I can remember playing Trivial Pursuit with my parents, and anytime the pink pie came up on arts entertainment, they knew every answer to every question. I knew none of them, and it just sucked so badly. I mean, I remember when I was in high school, and hey, Mickey, you're so fine by Tony basil came out, right? And we all thought she was some new star that just hit the scene. And years later, I watched EZ rider and realize she's the girl and easy riders, like wait a minute, this chick was in movies, you know, 15 years before this. And who knew right

B

Bruce Scivally 43:02

now, when I was teaching of film classes, and screenwriting and so on, once I started teaching, I learned very quickly that I had to only reference movies that had been made preferably within the past 10 years, maybe 20. I mean, even referencing the first Star Wars at this point is a stretch because that movie came out in 1977. You know, so that's almost 50 years ago. Crazy hard to imagine. But I would mention, you know, Humphrey Bogart or John Wayne and they just stare at me blankly because I had no clue who these people were. But anyways, getting back to Blofeld. You know, I think Blofeld himself is an almost faceless character particularly as we see him and you're only there twice. And that's kind of a trope of these kind of movies. It's it goes back to mythology and the Joseph Campbell kind of Hero's Journey thing where the villains are always kind of faceless because if they are kind of faceless, you can project any sort of image on them, you know?



Scot McKay 43:58

Yeah, it can also kind of point to that spiritual unknown demonic elements like exactly facing a larger power not just a mere human because you don't know what you're up against. And that mystery is always scary. Good point

B

Bruce Scivally 44:11

with the bond villains outside of Blofeld as well like Largo and Thunderball. There's no Drax is



Scot McKay 44:17

a good one.

B

Bruce Scivally 44:18

Yeah. And there's always sometimes a hint that there's something sexually deviant about them or, or sexually incompetent about them, they, they're not able to perform and state. Exactly. And it's kind of again, a trope of these kind of thriller movies that the villains always have some sort of some sort of feature that distinguishes them whether it's a facial scar or a limp or a lisp or you know something for an accent.



Scot McKay 44:45

Well in terms of how they are and how they act, I mean guys with a limp and Alyssa can get women to but I mean on the larger scale. Really, especially these older James Bond movies are fantastic object lessons for everyday guys on how to attract women. How to not attract women for sure. Well, I'll tell you what this has been a fantastic conversation. And Bruce, I want to point guys to your website which they can reach by going to mountaintop podcast conference slash Bruce, we've never had a Bruce on the show before be our UC. There, you'll find out all about him. And he's got just a wealth of knowledge and all things Hollywood and cinema and television. He's working on television projects even now. And he's in Los Angeles and I will also put his book, James Bond the legacy at the top of the queue on my Amazon influencer page, which you can reach as always, at mountaintop podcast, calm front slash Amazon. Bruce lovely, thank you so much for joining us today. And this has been a fantastic conversation and exceeded my expectations. Thank you so much for dropping your wisdom on us.



Bruce Scivally 45:49

It's been a pleasure. And I feel like we skimmed about the top 5% of this conversation. So



Scot McKay 45:54

I know after how many James Bond movies total,



Bruce Scivally 45:57

there have been 20 I think the next was 25 I believe it's been a lot.



Scot McKay 46:02

That's just been an iconic phenomenon



Bruce Scivally 46:05

in I yesterday, I said, I was quoted in an article back when the book came out and or sermon, Daniel Craig was cast and I said that you know, the producers are very smart in how like Madonna, they keep reinventing bond every few years. Is evergreen, you know,



Scot McKay 46:24

was just has lasting power. It's such a fantastic story. You mentioned the hero's journey. I think this is also kind of one of those iconic storylines that just lives deeply embedded within us.



Bruce Scivally 46:36

I mean, always said it was King George versus two dragon.



Scot McKay 46:40

Always fantastic stuff. Fantastic stuff. So go ahead and learn more about Bruce by going to mountaintoppodcast.com front slash Bruce. And guys, if you haven't visited mountaintoppodcast.com in a while, there are a couple things you may not know you can get in on my free daily newsletter, where I'm going to give you actionable advice on how to get better with women on a daily basis, you can also get a free copy of my book or how to deal with breakups. That's when you have a woman in your life and you kind of want to cut things off. And you don't know how there are four kinds of situations that could theoretically come up and cover all of them for you. That's a great little book to have in your toolbox for someday when you're going to need it. And get on my schedule and talk to me for free for 25 minutes about where you are right now. And where you want to be not only in your career, not only with the kind of adventures you want to have in your life, but also to get better women in your life. None of us are ever going to be quite like Sean Connery is James Bond because hey, you know, we're not living by a script from day to day, but we can come closer than you might think. And that's perhaps one of the things we can discuss when you click the red button in the upper right hand corner at mountaintoppodcast.com and get on my schedule to talk free for 25 minutes. While you're there. Also visit the guys at originmain.com. They got the best jeans, the best boots and some really powerful supplements that will make your life better. We're still in COVID-19 crisis mode guys, and they've got the best d3 you can just spray it right into your mouth in the morning and in the evening. There no pills to take nothing messy and give yourself one excellent prophylactic against getting sick. When you go to mountaintoppodcast.com conference slash origin use Mountain 10 as the discount code and get 10% off and you'll

love everything they have. There are so many things I've never even talked about that are just so cool and manly you got to give them a visit. Also visit mountaintoppodcast.com front slash heroes soap everything you need there from fantastic soap free of parabens with all natural ingredients and essential oils to body wash brand new body wash that makes you smell like a man as well. It's all there for you when you go to mountaintoppodcast.com calm front slash hero soap you can use Mountain 10 there as well and until I talk to you guys again real soon on the next episode This is Scott McKay from x&y communications in San Antonio Texas be good at their



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