

Welcome Back, 007!!!

I am PLEASED to say that Agent James Bond, 007 is BACK armed with his license to thrill! After the rather lackluster performance of *Quantum of Solace*, *Skyfall* was a much needed breath of vitality to the 50 year franchise. YES, indeed in 1962, *Dr. No* was released as the first Bond movie. I will not detail the plot of the newest installment; however, I will touch on some of the things that made this a return to form.

- Old Friends: Chief among them was Q. Albeit a a very young Q but I see great things coming in future movies. Hopefully, a return to the repartee between the Quartermaster and Bond from days of old. A few other surprises along the way that I will save.
- M: Dame Judi sure breathes life into what was always a cardboard cutout. Instead of the stereotypical head of MI6 who presents 007 with his latest assignment, she has become a much more dynamic and interesting character. *Skyfall* is as much an M-centered movie as it is Bond.
- BIG ACTION SEQUENCES: These seem to have been missing in the last two movies. Trains, motorcycles, helicopters and other myriad pieces add to the **FUN** of the film. I would really enjoy another good snow ski extravaganza.
- Supporting Cast: I cannot remember a Bond film having such a cast of well-known performers. Ralph Fiennes (without his make up as Voldemort ... ok so he has been in other movies) and Javier Bardem (who plays ANOTHER memorable villain).
- Daniel Craig: Maybe the third time was the charm. Mr. Craig has finally lightened up a bit from the stoic, seriousness of *Casino Royale* and *QoS*. You can almost see him winking at the camera. Thank goodness, as he has signed on for at least two more turns.

I am hard-pressed to find anything I did not like

about *Skyfall*. Even Adele's theme song was reminiscent of the best of them. The previous theme was another less than memorable aspect. Perhaps the gun barrel **OPENING** the show would be nice instead of closing it?