

Octopussy a movie filled with mayhem and action

by TERRY DUPUIS

One of the longest-running movie series on record would have to be the James Bond movies of producer Albert Broccoli.

It's been 21 years since Ian Fleming's suave British secret agent with the code name 007 first appeared on the screen in *Doctor No* with an actor named George Lazenby. Then Roger Moore was pressed into service as a new James Bond for *Live and Let Die* 10 years ago. He has remained the official screen 007 ever since. It is difficult to believe that there is a whole generation of younger movie-goers who have never even seen Sean Connery as James Bond. However, they will have an

opportunity to compare him to Moore this fall when Connery returns to the screen as 007.

In the meantime, however, we have Roger Moore back this summer for the sixth time in James Bond movie Number 13. The surprising thing about *Octopussy* is that the old basic formula still works.

Not only that, but this movie is an above-average entry in the series. The last couple of Bond movies with Roger Moore have been kind of lacklustre, but *Octopussy* is a return to the tight pacing and well-constructed action sequences which marked some of the earlier 007 movies.

Octopussy opens with a mysterious

suspenseful scene set in a dark woods near a circus. We see a clown running for his life through the trees pursued by two knife-throwing twin brothers. Just when it appears that he has made good his escape the clown has a knife thrown into his back.

But he manages to make it to a huge estate where he falls through a front window, and a jewel-encrusted egg falls from his dead hand. We then learn that the clown was a British secret agent who was murdered while trying to deliver a phony Faberge egg to the ambassador.

James Bond is sent over to East Berlin to investigate, and thus begins one of the most

exciting and best-paced of all the 007 movies. There are thrillingly photographed chase scenes in cars, trains and planes, and even a hot-air balloon. Bond has some hair-raising narrow escapes and encounters a whole slew of villains.

The person who keeps all of this mayhem and action moving along is the director John Glen, who used to be the action unit director on earlier James Bond movies. He keeps the story perking over two hours.

And I'm happy to report that this time there actually seems to be more story than usual. The fancy gadgets and gimmickry are well-integrated into the plot.

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