

ENTERTAINMENT

Markham Movie Scene

007 is virtually indestructible

By IAN BAILEY
The return of James Bond in Octopussy is as surprising as a late Markham Transit bus. After selling an estimated one billion tickets at box offices throughout the world since Dr.No in 1962, 007's invulnerability has been guaranteed.

The series has survived through three actors and the Bond character; has survived some of the most delightfully twisted villains thrown at moviegoers; from Auric Goldfinger to Ernst Stavro Blofeld, and now Kamal Khan (Louis Jordan) who is as funny and suave as Bond himself (played by Roger Moore) and a welcome relief from the stiff-necked cardboard baddies who have populated the series recently.

With Sean Connery's imminent return to the 007 role in Never Say Never Again (a Warner Brothers remake of the 1965 film, Thunderball) and a note at the end of Octopussy's credits that Bond will return in a new film called From a View to a Kill, it seems likely 007 will even survive the fact that Octopussy is the last of the original Ian Fleming novels.

What is surprising about Octopussy is that, despite its reliance on clichés inherited from the last 12 films, it comes across as interesting and packed with the ability to thrill thanks to a dizzying procession of mind-boggling stunts threaded along something recent Bond films have lacked — a good story.

In Octopussy James Bond's search for the killer of fellow agent 009 leads him to India where he encounters the shaky alliance of Kamal Khan (Jordan), an exiled Afghan prince, and an exotic international

criminal named Octopussy (Maud Adams).

He discovers that Khan is working with a renegade Soviet general to force Western Europe into unilateral disarmament by framing NATO forces for a nuclear disaster. Bond's battle to defuse the scheme takes him from the jungles of India to the autobahn's of Germany.

In this film the self-parody, that made recent Bond films dreadful, has been toned

down. Though the acting is only passable this film generates excitement through its original use of the characters, the exotic settings and a quirky sense of plot and humor that is sometimes reminiscent of that old British TV series, The Avengers.

Along with Return of the Jedi it's one of the most entertaining films available right now.

Octopussy is playing in two of Markham's four cinemas.



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