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## Review: 'Spectre' shows Bond never wears out his welcome

By JAMES GRANT, for The News-Sentinel  
Thursday, November 05, 2015 9:25 AM

“Bond, James Bond” — the phrase and the character who utters these immortal words never seems to grow old.

“Spectre,” the 24th installment in the James Bond film franchise and fourth Bond film starring Daniel Craig, which opens Friday in theaters across the U.S., packs a fast-paced punch that never lets up through the course of its 148 action-packed minutes.

From the opening moments of the film with the familiar James Bond theme playing through a series of well-shot action sequences, fights, intrigue, sex, villains and plot twists, Ian Fleming’s classic spy character never wears out his welcome.

The film, which centers on Bond’s discovery of a sinister organization called Spectre and his personal connection to its maniacal leader, has all of the classic ingredients of the best Bond films.

Majestic and moody theme song, “Writing’s on the Wall” by Grammy-winning singer Sam Smith: check.

Terrific and suspenseful action sequences: check.

Bond women and sexual tension: check.

Gadgets, high-tech toys and cool cars: check.

Sly humor and explosions: check

Though in truth most everything that happens in “Spectre” has been seen before in previous Bond films, the thing that makes everything tick is Craig’s performance as Bond.

Throughout “Spectre,” several characters refer to the oo Spy program and Bond himself as being old hat and obsolete, but this film and Craig’s performance prove there’s a lot of life left in the James Bond character.

Having seen many of the films in the Bond series, I must admit that I had not seen any of Craig’s previous performances as Bond, and I think I’ve been missing something special.

After years of either campy Bond or Bond villain performances, I sort of checked out of the Bond franchise in the early 1990s.

Having not seen the Bond character in so many years, it was a delight to step back into the world of Bond and thrilling to see Craig’s lean, athletic and suave take on such an iconic role.

With the campy turned down and a tight, well-paced and well-shot film such as “Spectre,” it was a welcome relief to watch this latest Bond installment.

Much like the recent reboot of Sherlock Holmes with the BBC TV series “Sherlock,” Craig’s take on Bond in “Spectre” brings a fresh breath of air to something that’s so well-known and well-loved.

Like “Sherlock,” “Spectre” has a modern feel while at the same time not losing the ingredients that make the Bond character so appealing.



From The Associated Press

James Bond’s (Daniel Craig) search to untangle the web of a crime organization leads him to Mexico City and then Italy in the new film “Spectre,” which opens today at local theaters.

### More Information

‘Spectre’

**WHAT:** Daniel Craig returns as the iconic British secret agent who, while trying to untangle the web of sinister organization Spectre, discovers a chilling link to himself.

**WHERE PLAYING:** (All offer shows beginning tonight except Strand in Kendallville, which begins Friday.) Carmike-Dupont, Carmike-Jefferson Pointe and IMAX, Cinema Grill, Coldwater, Huntington 7, NCG Cinemas-Auburn, Strand in Kendallville

**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 28 minutes

**RATING:** PG-13 for intense sequences of action and violence, some disturbing images, sensuality and language.

2 1/2 stars out of 4 (The Associated Press)

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Several of the young British actors appearing in "Spectre" may also be familiar to movie goers who are fans of other recent BBC productions.

Andrew Scott, who plays "C" in "Spectre," also plays Holmes' archnemesis Moriarty in a few episodes of the BBC's "Sherlock."

While the Bond character does come across as a sort of British superhero at times (how does he manage to survive some of this stuff?), "Spectre" sticks to the tried-and-true Bond formula: It all somehow works.

Much like a good romantic comedy, a familiar plot line handled well with actors who are well-suited to their roles can transcend its limitations.

And I must say the action sequences, especially a thrilling helicopter sequence early in the film, are magnificently filmed and also help to make this film fun to watch.

While I'm no expert on Bond films, from the sampling I've seen of the franchise, Craig is the best Bond I've seen since Sean Connery.

Supposedly Craig has said this is his last performance as Bond. If true, that's too bad as he fits the role like a glove.

I can't imagine Bond fans being disappointed in "Spectre," and if you're like me and just a casual viewer of the Bond films, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised and at least well entertained for a couple of hours.

And never fear, Bond fans, even if Craig does not don the role for a fifth time, the tail of the credits of "Spectre" reads "James Bond will be back."

For me personally Bond is also back, and "Spectre" is a great reintroduction.

This column is the commentary of the writer and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of The News-Sentinel.

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