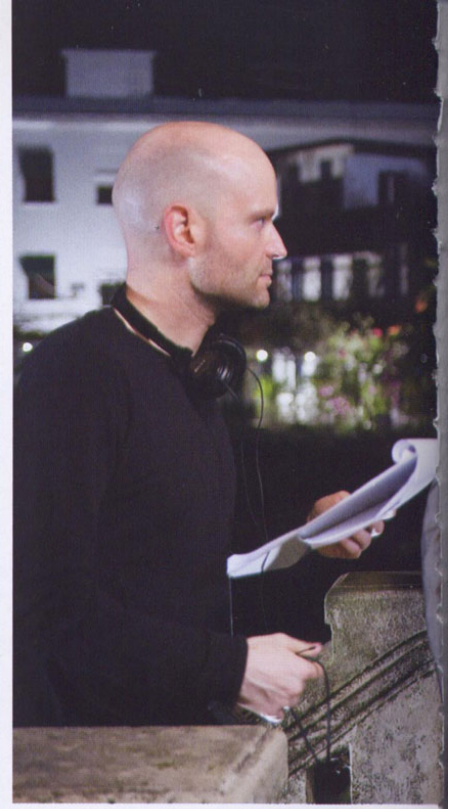


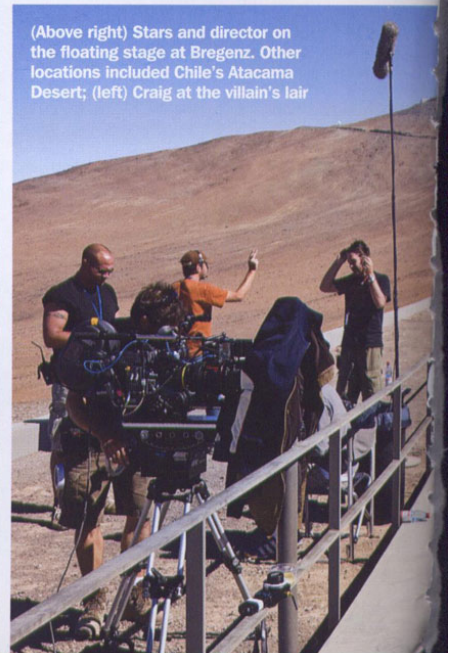
studio

Bringing you all the latest news from Sony

ROUND-UP BY ERICA GOODEY



(Above right) Stars and director on the floating stage at Bregenz. Other locations included Chile's Atacama Desert; (left) Craig at the villain's lair





Director Marc Forster (far left) with Mathieu Amalric (Greene), Olga Kurylenko (Camille) and 007; (below left) Anatole Taubman as Greene's sidekick Elvis



STORY BY MATT MUELLER

On set

Movie: *Quantum of Solace*

Director: Marc Forster **Stars:** Daniel Craig, Mathieu Amalric, Olga Kurylenko **Location:** Bregenz, Austria

On a chilly evening in May, *Sony Magazine* finds Britain's iconic MI6 agent by the shores of the alpine Lake Constance. Specifically, in the Austrian town of Bregenz, long renowned among opera-lovers thanks to its annual open-air festival and the floating stage anchored in the lakeside waters. Tonight, Puccini's *Tosca* has been specially remounted for 007's 22nd adventure, *Quantum of Solace*. The stage is packed with clergy-robed choral singers, while 1,200 extras decked out in evening-wear finery watch from the audience.

As the opera unfolds before the backdrop of a colossal eye, complete with an iris that tilts hydraulically, Daniel Craig's superspy hops nimbly from the lakeside moorings to solid ground, scanning the crowd for *Solace's*

a bevy of new Bond beauties (including Ukrainian actress Olga Kurylenko — see page 22), ingenious gadgetry and magnificent motors.

Ian Fleming wrote that James Bond was an orphan who happens to have a Swiss mother; *Quantum of Solace* is a sequel that happens to have a Swiss director. Marc Forster, who directed Halle Berry to an Oscar in *Monster's Ball*, is renowned for his knack of drawing powerful performances from actors. As someone who'd never directed a full-blown action sequence in his life, let alone wrangled a \$200m colossus, Forster was a risk — but one that the franchise was prepared to take, with Craig's blessing.

"When his name came up, I jumped at it," says the actor. "It's not just me involved in the film — the action, the explosions,

"I want to give an insight into who Bond is. He's not this perfect hero"

Marc Forster

villain, Dominic Greene. It's one of those grand-scale production numbers that only top-flight blockbusters can afford to pull off.

Quantum of Solace offers a second glimpse of Craig's take on the ice-cool British state assassin, following his acclaimed introduction in *Casino Royale*, and picks up one hour after the last movie ended, as Bond sets out on a vengeful mission to discover why Vesper (Eva Green) betrayed him.

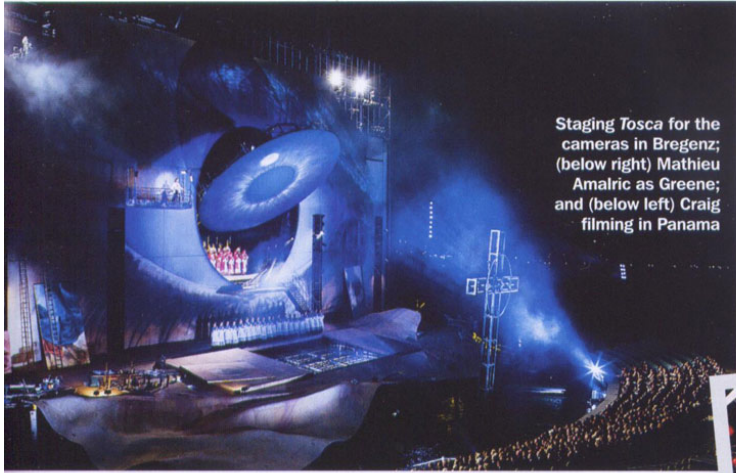
Before descending on Bregenz, the 007 roadshow travelled to Chile, Panama and Siena, Italy, as Bond traverses the globe to find the link between the shadowy tycoon Greene and Vesper — while, naturally, encountering

everything that goes along with a Bond movie, they're going to be taken care of. But I want the audience to be pulled in by the characters they see. That's why Marc is here."

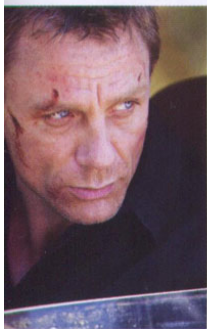
Similarly, Forster himself was intrigued by the chance to bring a psychological dimension to Bond.

"I'm not here to psychoanalyse Bond, but at the same time I want to give an insight or hint into who this person is, what motivates him to do a job like that. He's not this perfect hero and that's what I find interesting."

Just as Bond changed from the occasionally campy icon of yore to a brutal, slightly unhinged killer in the franchise reboot, →



Staging *Tosca* for the cameras in Bregenz; (below right) Mathieu Amalric as Greene; and (below left) Craig filming in Panama



the comic-book baddies are also a thing of the past. Dominic Greene is a new breed of Bond villain, one who doesn't rely on gimmicky scars or furry cats to intimidate. For Forster, who insisted on casting Mathieu Amalric (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*) in the role, it was all in the actor's eyes.

"I found that very intelligent because it's much more frightening when you don't know where the danger comes from," says Amalric, who incited a storm in a teacup when he said that Tony Blair and Nicolas Sarkozy were inspirations for Greene. "What I meant was, I could be inspired by the mystery of Blair's smile or how Sarkozy has to keep his aggressiveness inside. It was a tool for me to find this character."

Co-star Kurylenko, who beat 400 actresses to the part, is simply happy to be involved. "Because the last one was so good," she says,

"everybody wants to see what this one is going to be." As for the vast exposure that comes with being a Bond girl, "It's happening, it's kind of overwhelming. People ask me if there's anything negative about it, but for me it's only positive."

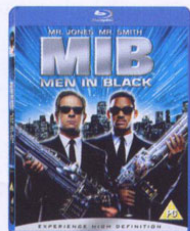
As night trundles on, the production moves out of the cold Austrian night and indoors to the magnificent opera house, where Craig performs some nifty manoeuvres through a crowded restaurant, pushing waiters out of the way and firing off shots at Greene's henchmen before making his escape into the kitchen. It's 007 as we know and love him: skilled, clever, willing to do whatever's necessary.

"With Bond, it's always shoot first, ask questions later," says Craig. "Kick the door in, see what happens. If he hurts himself, he hurts himself. But the chances are he won't and he'll keep moving on."

On set... take 2

Also in production is chick-flick *The House Bunny* (featuring ANNA FARIS, left)... stoner-comedy *Pineapple Express*, which stars SETH ROGEN, JAMES FRANCO and the gorgeous AMBER HEARD (see interview on page 76)... and principal photography recently began in Mexico on **TERMINATOR FOUR**... *Spider-Man 4* is set to be the big hit of 2009, though no cast news as yet... and *Men in Black* (right) will be the first **BLU-RAY DISC** to include **BD-LIVE** in the UK. BD-Live will take a disc's 'additional

material' to a new level, with features such as peer-to-peer interaction, ringtone downloads, gaming and access to updated or live content. ●



In Sony's labs



NEWS JUST IN: it was announced at the Wireless 08 conference that you'll soon be able to use WiFi hotspots to make calls on your mobile without paying a penny... Two hot new mobiles launch in July – Sony Ericsson's new **W980 WALKMAN PHONE** features superior audio technology, while the **C902** (right) is an ultra-thin 5MP Cyber-shot



camera phone. The multiplayer interactive quiz game, **BUZZ! QUIZ TV** (left), for the **PS3** will be launching at the same time as **BUZZ!** for the **PSP**... The new **DAV-F200 BRAVIA HOME THEATRE** system (above) can deliver a total of 405 watts to your lugs, but does so using only two speakers and a sub-woofer... The **PS3's** recent software upgrade has turned it into the first **PROFILE 2.0 BLU-RAY PLAYER** on the market... And *Quantum of Solace* – the game – will be out on the **PS3** later this year. ●

Multimedia

The show must go on...

INTERNET MORPHS INTO TV, TV INTO INTERNET AND BEYOND



It used to be so simple. You'd sit down with a nice cup of tea and watch a bit of telly. Sometimes, you'd rush home to be in time for your latest fix of *Antiques Roadshow*. Not any more. We no longer just watch programmes on television: we Google them, we stream them, we interact with them, we experience them. These days more than half of all British adults with internet access watch programmes online, according to a survey carried out by the video-searching service Blink.

Now, thanks to Sony Pictures Television International (SPTI), things have moved full circle. The online show, **Sofia's Diary** (pictured left), has made broadcasting history by being the first UK-produced programme to go from internet to television. The daily web drama of two- to three-minute episodes initially made its name on the social-networking site

Bebo, but was recently bought up by FIVER (previously Five Life). The series is proving a phenomenal success both online and on TV among its core audience of teens and twentysomethings – the generation that looks beyond mainstream media to shape its worldview. A success from the outset – its online debut in March attracted over a million viewers in the first 48 hours – *Sofia's Diary* is now pulling in a hefty number of regular viewers on FIVER and Bebo have ordered in another 65 episodes. But it doesn't stop at TV and the internet – the show also features in the teen magazine, *Mizz*, and fans of Sofia can receive mobile text alerts with the latest news.

Sofia's Diary follows another multimedia property, **Afterworld**, which charts the story of Russell Shoemaker, who wakes up in New York City to find that all technology has become obsolete and 99 per cent of the world's population is missing. SPTI has licensed *Afterworld* to Channel4 and the show launched online and on the TV channel in April. To promote the show's launch, Channel4 created a British homage to *Afterworld*, based around Maia, one of a few to survive the same apocalyptic disappearance in London of the population and technology. Maia compiles a diary of the journey to find her parents, composed of blogs, video diaries and text messages. It all shows that while TV remains very popular, young viewers are more and more engaged by programmes like *Afterworld* and *Sofia's Diary* that move across platforms – from the internet to TV to mobile phones. See *Sofia* here: www.bebo.com/sofiadiary or check out *Afterworld* at: www.channel4.co.uk/afterworld