

No Time to Die offers a satisfying end to 007 saga



Daniel Craig stars *No Time to Die*, his fifth movie as British superspy 007.

FILE PHOTO, Keizertimes

Review

BY T.J REID
For the Keizertimes

If you are an actor who happens to be British, then odds are you will probably play one of two characters sometime in your career: The Doctor (of *Doctor Who* fame; call him “Doctor Who” around a Whovian and you will probably be drawn and quartered) or James Bond.

Okay, this is an exaggeration (duh), but both characters do have a surprising amount of longevity for a nation that regularly cancels successful television shows after six episodes. This being said, I was, naturally, a bit skeptical when I saw that *No Time to Die* was being advertised as the grand finale of everyone’s favorite chauvinistic superspy. One thing was for certain, however: After five movies and 15 years in the role, it would at very least be Daniel Craig’s last outing as the character, and *No Time to Die* turned out to be the perfect swan song to his modern-Bond era.

If I had to describe Craig’s tenure as 007 in two words they would be “gritty” (sometimes to a fault) and “deeper.” No, the movies are not epic character dramas full of Shakespearean acting and thoughtful dissections of the human psyche, but they at least gave Bond some character other than “suave spy who spouts one-liners between shags and martinis,” and nowhere is

this more apparent than in *No Time to Die*, which, like *Skyfall* before it, actually allows Craig to give a fairly moving performance. And while it is still “gritty” and fairly “realistic,” *No Time to Die* finally allows the series to be fun again as well. The gadgets are back (including the beloved souped-up Aston Martin), his allies are all in on the game (including Ralph Fiennes as M, Léa Seydoux as Madeleine Swann, Jeffrey Wright as Felix Leiter, Naomi Harris as Moneypenny, and Ben Whishaw as Q) and the script may surprise you with a post-kill pun here and there as well as Bond battles against Rami Malek’s sinister Lyutsifer Safin and Christoph Waltz’s iconic Blofeld. It seems as if finally, at the end, Craig’s series has struck a perfect balance between serious and silly.

But all is not perfect in *No Time to Die*. For one thing, it lacks the giant action set pieces that have been a trademark of the series for decades, opting

instead for isolated spurts of violence that are separated by a whole lot of exposition. Good exposition, mind you, but those going into the movie expecting non-stop action for the entire two hour and forty-three minute runtime will be a bit disappointed. The plot is also pretty straightforward, which I appreciated and liked, but others might see it as undaring or even underwhelming. All I know is that I enjoyed the fact that I didn’t have to tie my brain in knots just to understand why some guy was punching another guy.

Daniel Craig may have taken his bow, but *No Time to Die* proves that James Bond himself still has plenty of places to go. If you have a British accent (or can at least fake one well enough), then who knows. Maybe you can be the one to take him there someday. Time is certainly on your side.

No Time to Die is now playing exclusively in theaters.

VOLUNTEER of the Week

presented by



LORE CHRISTOPHER

Where and how do you volunteer?

"I have had the privilege of serving our community in a variety of ways from being a volunteer member of the Keizer Parks and Rec Citizen Committee to eventually becoming Mayor for 14 years. I pivoted my efforts to Arts and Culture once my mayoral term ended. I have been a board member of the Keizer Public Arts Citizen Committee; Keizer Art Association; Keizer Community Foundation and Keizer Heritage Foundation since my mayoral term ended in 2015."

What does volunteering do for you?

"I find that serving others fills up your heart and soul. It doesn't take a lot of time to make a significant difference in our community or the lives of fellow community members. It is so fun to serve with people who are as interested and caring as I am about the committees we serve on."

How would you get others to volunteer in their community?

"I would encourage others to identify an area of interest and then reach out to Debbie Lockhart at the City of Keizer to determine the best place for you to volunteer your efforts in an area you are interested in and feel passion about. It isn't work if you love doing it! I always tell any potential Board members 'If you do not love your volunteer job, you will not do well at the job. Let me help you find your perfect job to love!' There are many available... just take that first step and talk with someone, me for instance."

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