



Daniel Craig wears Hussein Chalayan for YOOX.COM

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isits to film sets, much like the final products themselves, are very much hit-and-miss affairs. While there's every chance you could be watching a tyre-screeching car chase, there are also days like today, when I'm peering into a small monitor watching Daniel Craig... having high tea. As I watch, the man best known as James Bond is tackling a china tea set, a large fruitcake and two old biddies. Gripping stuff.

It's a scorching July day and the last week of filming on *Flashbacks Of A Fool* at a quaint 15th-century country cottage which used to be one of Henry VIII's hunting lodges, on the outskirts of Radlett, Hertfordshire. It's a far cry from the hoopla of a Bond film and a return to Craig's independent roots; the thoughtful tale of a hedonistic Hollywood actor (cue sweeping strings-filled score) who has to come to terms with the wrongs of his past. It's also a very personal project for Craig - his friend, director Baillie Walsh wrote the script with him in mind to play the drugged up, off-the-rails protagonist who's seeking some form of redemption. Which means drinking lots of tea, apparently.

"It's like the English psychiatric treatment, 'Sit yourself down, have a cup of tea and tell me what's wrong'," says Craig of this scene where he visits his mother (played by Olivia Williams) and aunt (Helen McCrory) after the death of a childhood friend. "Baillie, who's my closest friend, wrote it about five years ago with me in mind, showed it to me and said, 'Wouldn't it be good if we could get this made?' We both just laughed it off at the time. It was like, 'Yeah right, when are we going to get a film made?' but recently things have been going rather well and we managed to raise the money."

'Going well', to any sentient member of the Western world, refers to Craig being cast as Ian Fleming's 007, and he admits that getting an \$11m budget is far easier when you have Bond as your leading man and executive producer.

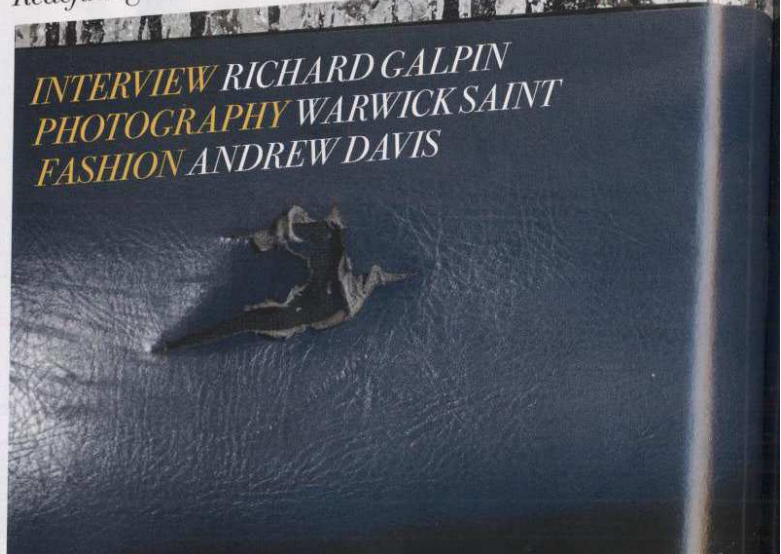
"Yes I'm executive producer, how fucked up is that? I pressed the flesh. I could meet and greet with film distributors. It's all a question of confidence - if you can get two or three people interested, then you have a team and can go, 'Hey look, it's a good idea'. But it's still high risk - getting people to put their hand in >>



Craig's list

Redefining Bond, check. Spielberg epic, check. Causing mass female

INTERVIEW RICHARD GALPIN
PHOTOGRAPHY WARWICK SAINT
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hysteria, check. Stakes duly raised, what does Daniel Craig do for an encore? Arena investigates



(Previous page) Jacket by Hussein Chalayan for Yoox.com; jumper by Prada; jeans by Mulberry. (Left) Coat by Tom Ford; trousers by Dries Van Noten at Harvey Nichols

