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SIR KENNETH ADAM

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For immediate release

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the James Bond franchise which began in 1962 with the innovative *Dr No*. To celebrate, you can watch the legendary production designer Sir Ken Adam's videos on Web of Stories where he shares his behind-the-scenes memories of the iconic movie brand.

The world-famous spy movie franchise is set to release the 23rd James Bond film, *Skyfall*, to a worldwide audience in October and November 2012. Peek behind the scenes of the world's most-loved secret agent movies by watching the series of captivating video clips on Web of Stories.

Sir Ken Adam OBE (born in Berlin, 5 February 1921) is a production designer who made his name with his ground-breaking semi-futuristic sets for the James Bond films of the 1960s and 1970s, including *Goldfinger*, *Thunderball*, *Diamonds Are Forever* and *Moonraker*. He also worked on *Barry Lyndon* and *The Madness of King George*, winning an Oscar for both films.

Watch the set designer share his Bond experiences, including his first reading of the *Dr No* script: *'I got the first 100 pages of Dr No, and... I thought they were pretty awful, frankly.'*

He reminisces about a set on *Dr No* that had slipped his mind which, thanks to his ingenuity, went on to be the most successful set of the film: *'There was a near disaster with the last set, which I'd forgotten about... So I came up with... a sort of a minimum set. I had one chair, I had a copper door and I had a table in the foreground with the cage and the tarantula – the real tarantula – in the cage. And strangely enough, I think it was probably one of the*

most effective sets of that film, and several critics remarked on it and said that this set the style for future Bond films.'

He also recounts how sometimes things didn't go to plan with the Bond sets, and how he had to use his creativity: *'We had to do some shots on a real submarine, and the Americans had promised that we could use one of theirs and then they got cold feet... and then the Royal Navy turned us down as well, so we didn't have a submarine. And what we did... we cut one of the submarines into three or four pieces and put them on low loaders and took them somewhere down on the south coast, assembled the pieces and floated them on big drums, like a raft really, and if you look at the film you wouldn't tell the difference because Roger [Moore] and Barbara Bach are lowered down from a helicopter into the conning tower of the submarine, and you would really believe it's a... real submarine floating at sea.'*

Watch these fascinating, insightful recordings, and many more, as a number of short clips, with a fully searchable transcript. All Web of Stories videos are easy to share with friends and colleagues, and may be embedded into personal blogs and websites.

<http://www.webofstories.com/people/ken.adam/66>

NOTES FOR EDITORS ABOUT WEB OF STORIES

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists, writers and artists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and that a web was slowly being created of connected stories.

We welcome anyone to come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, we hope you will record your stories for others to enjoy.

CONTACT

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