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# Arts.

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## James Bond Director Wows Aberdeen On Recent Visit

Annie Berbiers

WHEN GUY HAMILTON came back to Aberdeen for the first time in sixty years it was an amazing experience to be part of. Interviewed by Janice Forsyth as part of the Directors Cut series he talked about his life as a film director.

He talked of how he had loved films since he was young and used to go and watch American films with his girlfriend at the age of nine. After watching a French film he was determined to start a career in French movies. Guy spent his early childhood in France, on the outbreak of war he returned to London where he worked briefly in the film library at Paramount News before joining the Royal Navy. When asked about the war he said 'I remember the good bits of war, not the bad, a breeze if you came out in one piece'.

Guy worked on many films; he was assistant director on two of Carol Reed's *The Third Man* (1949) and *The African Queen* (1951). He then went on to direct four of the Bond Films; *Goldfinger* (1964), *Diamonds are Forever* (1971), *Live and Let Die* (1973) and *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1974). Guy also directed *Funeral in Berlin* (1966), *An Inspector Calls* (1954), *The Colditz Story* (1955) and *Battle of Britain* (1969). Guy talked fondly of Carol Reed and said he had a huge influence on him and talked of his qualities he admired 'he cared enormously, lived the part, it was a joy for me that Carol had been an



**Bond, James Bond:** The outstanding and, some would say, seminal Sean Connery in classic Bond pose assistant himself'.

Popular questions asked by the audience were those about new generation stars and what he thought of them, Guy replying with 'They should

go back to the good old days of *The African Queen*'. He talked honestly about his films and fondly of the people he worked with. Laughing about how ridiculous James Bond movies sounded when you read the

script and how he could not take James Bond the character seriously. Guy spoke of how exciting it all was and how on the whole he preferred the old style of film making. The audience were all captured

by him and enjoyed listening to the fact he loved musicals, and how he did one and it was a disaster. When asked how many films he watched for fun now he said it is hard to watch a movie without seeing it from

a director's point of view with a critical eye. Although he went onto make the point that just like all of us he still gets lost in a good film and 'just enjoys going to see a good old picture'.

## BAFTA's Showcase The Best Of British

**Amy and Russell and Zara Cameron**

LAST SUNDAY SAW The British Academy Television Awards have taken place in London's Royal Festival Hall to celebrate the very best in TV. The night was hosted by Graham Norton, who managed to tame his

outrageous wit and crude jokes to suit the formal audience. The night's highlight had to be Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French receiving the fellowship award. This award is the highest accolade bestowed by the academy and is given to those who have shown outstanding talent in their field over their lifetime. The announcement of

their award roused a standing ovation from the audience, and as usual their acceptance speech was self-deprecating.

Along with the expected winners of the night there was some surprises, the most talked about being the television show *Skins* beating off tough competition from

the likes of *The Apprentice* and *The Inbetweeners* to win the Philips Audience award for best programme of 2009.

The special award of the night went to Jane Tranter for her success in televising *Doctor Who* who once more! the award was fittingly presented to Jane by *Doctor Who* star David

Tennent.

Kate Winslet managed a clean sweep of all major awards ceremonies, winning best actress for *The Reader*, beating off tough competition from the likes of Angelina Jolie.

As ever the stars did not fail to impress with their jaw

droppingly beautiful dresses, and in Barbara Winsors case her hair-do stole the show!

The BAFTAs yet again captured the spirit of British film and television and we hope next year can continue the success!