

# Movie review: Craig continues 007 legacy with success

Latest Bond movie innovates while holding onto what makes the series great

Courtney Gabrielson

Staff Writer

"Skyfall" is a testament to what a person with vision and talent can do. Sam Mendes (American Beauty, Road to Perdition), the man at the helm at Bond's newest adventure, brings a focus and freshness to a franchise very susceptible to pedantic formula.

The groundwork for the plot is laid in the first five minutes and with great haste. In the rush to return a hard drive of grave importance to MI-6, Bond (Daniel Craig, exceedingly good here) falls to what appears to be a violent death; the hard drive is stolen; M (Judi Dench), faces increasing disapproval of new supervisors (Ralph Fiennes) and the British government, who views her 00 unit as pointless and "quaint"; Silva (Javier Bar-



dem), our villain, begins to act on his malicious and destructive fixation with MI-6. As usual, Bond, who does not stay dead for long, must solve all the world's problems without breaking a sweat or mussing up his decidedly well-cut suits.

The film, a sort of commentary on old vs. new, the power of nostalgia and the dangers of stagnation, seems as though it's trying to prove a point.

"Hey guys," Mendes seems to shout.

"Bond is awesome. We love it when he drinks his martinis and seduces beautiful women and drives his Ashton Martins. But this is the 21st century! Let's add some computer hacking and go to China, and while we're at it, let's not do what everyone expects us to!"

And it works. It works really well.

As a homage and remix, "Skyfall" gives us all that we wanted and a little more, because Mendes was not all that concerned with being bigger and badder (as it seems di-

rectors of the last few installments was just being better. There's a formula, but he follows, but it's quickly trashed by the film's phenomenal denouement. The whole thing is so marvelously spy that calling it a "Bond film" is slightly insulting. We're watching 007 in what he himself calls a "brave new world," a place completely unbounded by the franchise's conventions.

Other highlights are most definitely Javier Bardem as Silva, the constantly escalating villain, in whose performance you can see traces of Heath Ledger's Joker. His performance is supported quite well by a stellar supporting cast including Ralph Fiennes, Ben Whishaw, and Naomie Harris. Finney make their moments count.

Shanghai is also beautifully shown. The scene atop an unfinished high-rise in Shanghai and a henchman duel in silhouette are particularly striking. Adele's theme song works effectively as an overlay for the film's occasionally trippy credits. And of course, Daniel Craig, the consummate 007, continues his streak as an excellent Bond.

# Spotted: fashionable faculty display trends in the workplace



Dr. Fackler  
English Department

These professors sport trends at work and show students aren't the only ones with style

Sarah Taylor

Staff Writer

I sat down to interview Dr. Lewis in the English department in order to understand her sense of fashion and her style tips and tricks. Dr. Lewis, a professor at Davidson College for over twenty-five years frequently writes articles about American culture and trendiness.

Her most notable fashion article was a piece dedicated to women's obsession with shoes. In fact, shoes are her absolute favorite things about fashion. "I cannot tell you how many pairs I own," she admits, "dozens and dozens."

Dr. Lewis first developed an interest in fashion because of her mom. She reminisced, "shopping was a big part of our relationship." Lots of her favorite pieces - clothing and jewelry - are hand-me-downs from her mother and grandmother.

However, following mom's fashion lead did not always work out as planned. In college, she and her mom both agreed that she looked adorable in "brown and white gingham knickers," which were gathered and lacy at the knee. They were "the worst piece of clothing I ever spent money on," she confesses.

What fashion mistakes does she see people making on Davidson's campus? She sees two extremes: women in clothing that

is too small and men in clothing that is too big. Young women today, she notices, wear everything "short, short and tight, tight" with plenty midriff and "bosom" bearing shirts. Putting it gently, she remarks, "There are times for things like that that are better than others."

Instead of following the tight/baggy trends, Dr. Lewis advises that students "keep perspective on fashion, don't follow fashion for fashion's sake, but wear what looks good on you. No one can wear every single fashion well." For example, she does not like ruffles or wedges, so, a couple seasons ago when ruffles were the rage, she avoided them at all costs, rather than give into the latest, greatest trend.

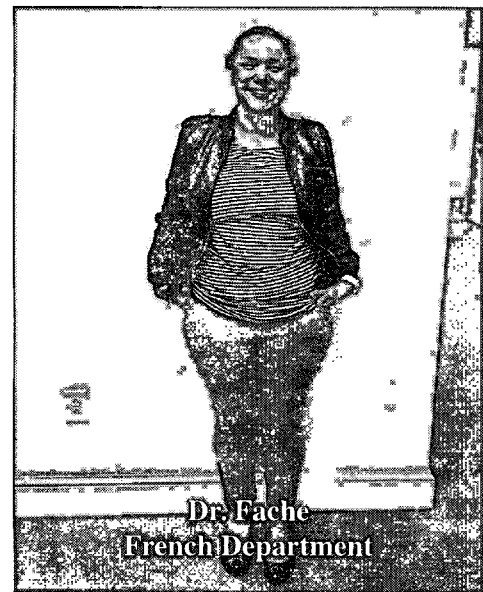
After you graduate or even during your time at Davidson, you may need to dress in appropriate professional attire. If you are unsure of how to dress outside a laid-back college environment, here are a few tips.

Women should first make sure all of their clothes are tailored and ironed. They should wear appropriate, knee-length skirts and modest shirts - no cleavage. Men should wear dress slacks that aren't too baggy or too tight, limited amounts of jewelry and should also limit the amount of cologne they wear.

What you should not wear in the workplace: Uggs, sweatpants and sweatshirts, yoga pants, spandex pants, what you wore yesterday, cheap flip-flops, sports jerseys, hats, torn clothing, sunglasses while inside, short shorts or sheer clothing. If you stay away from these trends and stick to the tips given above, you are likely to fit in with the office's business attire culture.



Dr. Roberts  
Political Science Department



Dr. Fache  
French Department



Dr. Lewis  
English Department

# Student production of "The Pride" electrifies campus

Upcoming play confronts intense subjects of passion, violence and hardships

Katie Bennett

Staff Writer

Betrayal, identity, love and lust. These are just a few of the topics examined in the upcoming play "The Pride," written by British playwright Alexi Kaye Campbell. Directed by Elizabeth Schneider '13, the play follows the intertwining lives of three individuals placed in two time periods.

In London in 1958, Philip, played by Tom James '15, questions his loyalty to his

wife Sylvia, played by Megan Pratt, when Sylvia introduces him to her handsome co-worker Oliver, played by Allen Rigby '14. The previously homophobic Philip entangles himself in a secret love affair with Oliver, forcing him to re-evaluate his life and true identity. Fast forward to London in 2008, openly gay Philip and Oliver have recently split, and Sylvia is their best friend.

The plot practically screams conflict. With violence, passion and hardships being the main mediums through which the characters shape their identity, it's no surprise that the cast encountered more than a few challenging scenes. Tom expressed his concerns with enacting a rape scene at the end of the first act. He admitted, "I was

initially quite uncomfortable with a moment of such profound violence and cruelty. However, upon learning more about my character, I came to understand that it is a desperate response by a troubled man who chooses violence because he is incapable of intimacy at that point in the play." It seems the characters aren't the only ones learning something from this play. Several of the actors mention that the play is very relatable; no matter what your sexual orientation, you, the audience, can appreciate the beauty and strife exhibited in the characters' complex relationships.

Despite the new and uncomfortable obstacles the play presented, the actors enjoyed working with each other to produce this

controversial drama. One of the lead actresses, Megan Pratt '13, reflected on her experience: "I think one of the highlights of the entire process was the wonderful relationships of people that I got to work with. It was really special that we have all gotten together over the past month, especially since we're dealing with such delicate subject matter."

Lose yourself in the two worlds of "The Pride." Starting Wednesday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m. and running until Sunday, November 15, with the last performance on November 18, with the last performance at 2:00 p.m. The play will be shown at the Barber Theatre in the Cunningham Theatre Center. Tickets for students cost \$5.00, for faculty and staff \$7.00, and can be purchased online or in the Union.

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