# Queen Elizabeth II’s James Bond cameo revealed the monarch’s playful side at London 2012



The 2012 London Olympics is perhaps best remembered for the remarkable moment when Queen Elizabeth II took centre stage in a delightful, albeit unexpected, cameo alongside Daniel Craig, portraying the iconic British spy, James Bond. As the world tuned in to witness the opening ceremony, the image of Bond entering Buckingham Palace, past the Queen's beloved corgis, set the stage for a truly memorable event.

The scene unfolded with a tuxedo-clad Craig arriving at the royal residence, leading to the reveal of the Queen in a peach dress. Initial reactions within the royal family, including that of Prince Charles, were that a body double, perhaps even Helen Mirren, had played the part of the monarch. However, the moment the Queen greeted Craig with a poised “Evening, Mr Bond,” it became clear: this was no substitute.

The Queen's ambitious entrance was punctuated by a helicopter flight over London, culminating in her dramatic descent, reminiscent of a film stunt that would thrill any Bond fan. This sequence drew inspiration from a vault of cinematic history, particularly echoing moments from "The Spy Who Loved Me". Director Danny Boyle’s intent was to inject a sense of cheeky British humour into the proceedings, ensuring that the Queen’s presence, whether real or simulated, was felt during the festivities.

Interestingly, this unconventional involvement was initially approached as a straightforward request for permission from Buckingham Palace, as Boyle explained in an interview with Jonathan Ross. To his astonishment, the palace responded positively, expressing the Queen's enthusiasm for participating in the cameo herself. "They came back and said: ‘We are delighted for you to do it and Her Majesty would like to be in it herself,’” Boyle recalled, stunned by the swift acceptance. The notion that the Queen would embrace such an opportunity illustrates her often understated sense of humour.

What added to the charm of her participation were the reactions of those watching in the stadium, including members of her family. Prince William and Prince Harry, ignorant of their grandmother's secret role until the moment of revelation, reportedly exclaimed “Go, Granny!” as the Queen made her descent. The collective gasps and ensuing laughter showcased a shared joy, mingling familial pride with national delight.

As the film sequence played out, the Queen had also taken the liberty to suggest her own line for the moment: "Good evening, Mr Bond." This conversation, facilitated between her and her trusted dresser, Angela Kelly, highlighted a side of the monarch rarely seen—one willing to engage in playful moments that would resonate with her grandchildren and the viewing public alike.

The ceremony itself sought to reflect the rich tapestry of British history, from the Suffragettes to the contributions of the National Health Service, with the Queen's cheeky cameo serving as a quintessential homage to contemporary British culture. Boyle and his team not only captured the imagination of audiences but also fostered a deeper resonance of national pride during the Olympics, a time when the country sought to present a united front.

In a broader cultural context, her participation redefined perceptions of the monarchy, showcasing an ability to connect with younger generations while simultaneously reinforcing a long-standing respect for tradition. As she took her seat in the Royal Box to enjoy the unfolding ceremony, audiences worldwide celebrated not only the Olympics but also an unexpected moment of levity from a beloved monarch, captured forever in the annals of historical events.

The Queen's secretive role and her playful spirit brought warmth and humanity to a highly formal institution. It stands as a vivid reminder that even within the structured walls of royalty, there exists room for a bit of fun.

### Reference Map

1. Information on Queen Elizabeth II's cameo at the London Olympics opening ceremony.
2. Insights into her delight and the surprise surrounding her participation.
3. Contextual inspiration drawn from the cinematic history of James Bond.
4. Reactions from the royal family and spectators during the event.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/royals/article-14611931/queen-elizabeth-helicopter-london-olympics.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/olympics/london-2012/9434663/London-2012-Queen-delighted-with-James-Bond-role-in-opening-ceremony.html> - This article discusses Queen Elizabeth II's participation in the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony, where she appeared alongside Daniel Craig as James Bond. The Queen's involvement was a closely guarded secret, and she expressed delight in being part of such an exceptional event. The piece highlights the surprise element and the positive reception of her cameo.
3. <https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/tv/news/queen-olympics-daniel-craig-james-bond-b2598031.html> - This piece reveals that the Queen's Olympic stunt was inspired by a famous James Bond sequence from 'The Spy Who Loved Me.' Director Danny Boyle envisioned the stunt after recalling the film's opening scene. The article also details the Queen's active involvement, including her suggestion of the line 'Good evening, Mr Bond.'
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/olympics/london-2012/9434663/London-2012-Queen-delighted-with-James-Bond-role-in-opening-ceremony.html> - This article discusses Queen Elizabeth II's participation in the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony, where she appeared alongside Daniel Craig as James Bond. The Queen's involvement was a closely guarded secret, and she expressed delight in being part of such an exceptional event. The piece highlights the surprise element and the positive reception of her cameo.
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