SMCC Honors Cohort

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Final Project paper

James Bond ‘No Time To Die’ analysis
This project is a deep dive into a condensed analysis of the movie "No Time to Die," the 25th installment in the James Bond film series. This film, directed by Cary Fukunaga and released in 2021, marks Daniel Craig's fifth and final appearance as the iconic British spy, James Bond.

"No Time to Die" follows Bond as he has retired from active service and is enjoying a quiet life in Jamaica with Dr. Madeleine Swann who is played by Léa Seydoux. However, his peaceful retirement is disrupted when Felix Leiter who is played by Jeffrey Wright, a friend and CIA agent, seeks his help to rescue a kidnapped scientist. This mission leads Bond into a complex web of intrigue, involving a new dangerous bioweapon technology, a mysterious villain named Safin who is played by Rami Malek, and an old acquaintance, Nomi who is played by Lashana Lynch, who has taken over his former 007 designation.

The film explores Bond's struggle with his identity and legacy. He grapples with the question of whether he can truly retire from the world of espionage and whether his actions have lasting consequences. The film delves into the theme of betrayal, as characters are revealed to have hidden agendas and loyalties are tested. Bond himself experiences a sense of betrayal from those he trusts. Bond's romantic relationship with Madeleine Swann is a central theme. Their complicated history and love for each other play a significant role in the film. Bond's relationship with Dr. Swann takes center stage, highlighting the importance of personal connections and the sacrifices made in the name of duty. The betrayal of this relationship from Madeleine Swann is shown very early on in the movie when bond goes to see he his ex lover Vesper Lynd’s cemetery, bond was being watched on the way there and once he got there the headstone blew up and almost killed him. This was clearly a murder
attempt and soon enough we gain the knowledge that Madeleine told her father Mr White that Bond would be going to do that and since Mr White is old enemies with James, he wants him killed, so Mr White sends his men over to where James and Madeleine are having their vacation.

"No Time to Die" signifies a transition in the James Bond franchise, not only with Craig's departure but also by introducing new characters and modernizing the series, reflecting changing attitudes toward espionage and gender roles. The final scene was very emotional for the fans as it was Daniel’s last film, my generation would say that he is the best Bond actor and that they won't enjoy it as much because he is not in the next movie. This ultimately made the scene harder to watch for people because we all knew that his death throughout the movie but we really didn’t want to get to that stage and be forced to watch it.

The film's score, composed by Hans Zimmer, complements the action and suspense with a dynamic and memorable soundtrack. Additionally, the theme song, "No Time to Die," performed by Billie Eilish, received critical acclaim and an Academy Award for Best Original Song. I believe that the most impactful music soundtrack in this movie was the final scene when Bond was about to die with the missiles travelling towards the island that he was stranded on, the way he accepted his fate prior made the music really stand out because it is slow, sad and very loud. From my experience of the film, the soundtrack in the final scene much louder compared to the rest, this is of course done on purpose which I think is a crucial piece to analyse. Since this is the most important part of the full movie it is crucial for it to be memorable. This goal was achieved because I watched this movie about 3 years ago and I still remember that final scene in a lot of detail even though I have not seen it for a long time.

This movie managed to bring in very talented actors which was not a surprise because James Bond is such a big franchise and it needed to live up to the expectations.
In his final portrayal of Bond, Craig’s character undergoes significant development, grappling with personal demons and the impact of his actions over the years. His complexity and vulnerability shine through in this instalment.

Safin (Rami Malek): Safin is a formidable and enigmatic villain with a personal vendetta against Bond. His motivation and backstory add depth to the character, making him more than just a typical Bond antagonist.

Nomi (Lashana Lynch): Nomi represents the new generation of spies, and her dynamic with Bond underscores the changing landscape of espionage. She brings wit, intelligence, and a fresh perspective to the series.

Madeleine Swann (Léa Seydoux): As a complex and enigmatic character, Madeleine plays a pivotal role in the story. Her past and connection to Bond are central to the film's plot.

Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright): A recurring character in the Bond series, Felix Leiter returns to seek Bond's assistance in the mission.

M (Ralph Fiennes), Q (Ben Whishaw), Moneypenny (Naomie Harris), and Tanner (Rory Kinnear): The MI6 team, including M, Q, Moneypenny, and Tanner, plays crucial supporting roles.

"No Time to Die" features spectacular action sequences, including high-speed car chases, hand-to-hand combat, and thrilling stunts. Cinematographer Linus Sandgren captures the action with a visually stunning and dynamic style. The film's cinematography contributes to the overall intensity and excitement. The movie’s first scene is straight into a high-speed car chase to set the tone in the film. This excites and hooks the crowd from the get-go because they are going to the cinema’s to see an action movie, which they are granted by action right from the very start which I think was a great move by the director. This movie showed juxtaposition between the beginning and the end because the ending scenes are such
slow paced as it is showing a very sad time between Bond’s lover and daughter because James is gone, when comparing this scene to the opening scene it is so different because the first scene is such high pace and very intense. The final scene wrapped it up perfectly because it is the end of an era with Daniel Craig. With the slowness of the scenes, it gave the crowd time to reminisce the good times and memories they have with Daniel Craig being this generations James Bond. It finishes with the scene of the agents in the MI6 office having a toast to Bond over a glass of whiskey celebrating his achievements throughout his spy career.

"No Time to Die" received generally positive reviews from critics. It was praised for its action sequences, performances, and Craig's farewell performance as Bond. The film's exploration of Bond's character and themes of legacy and identity added depth to the action-packed narrative. ‘The guardian’ newspaper’s review said “Director Cary Fukunaga delivers it with terrific panache, and the film also shows us a romantic Bond, a uxorious Bond, a Bond who is unafraid of showing his feelings, like the old softie he’s turned out to be”.

"No Time to Die" serves as a fitting conclusion to Daniel Craig's tenure as James Bond. It balances the classic elements of the franchise with a modern sensibility, addressing themes of legacy and identity while delivering thrilling action sequences. It marks a significant chapter in the history of the James Bond series and sets the stage for future iterations of the iconic character. In this paper I have critically analysed this movie and I am confident that I have explained what impact this movie has on the audience and how that can effect them in their life, maybe they think of certain things differently now compared to what they thought before they watched the movie, for example it could be how they realise how important family is to certain people and how loyalty can sometimes put you in really tough situations that you wouldn’t want to be in.

This is the link to the guardians Newspaper review that I used to show one of the reviews this movie received.

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2382320/

This is the link to the IMBD review and information on this movie.