

SUSIE ALLNUTT/TONY BARSON



Rachel Weisz is said to be worried about the injuries husband Daniel Craig, who insists on doing many stunts himself, suffers during filming for the Bond series

Live and let Bond lie, Weisz tells Craig

Sharon Feinstein

ANYONE who thought it was M who gave orders to James Bond may need to reconsider: it is apparently 007's wife.

The actress Rachel Weisz will have a big influence on whether her husband, Daniel Craig, continues in the role because she is concerned about the physical toll that playing the character takes on his body, according to a close friend of the couple.

There were suggestions last week that Craig would abandon the role in favour of Purity, a 20-part television series. However, MGM, which distributes the Bond films, is

reported to be willing to delay the next movie by a year to keep him.

Craig, 47, has incurred several injuries during the making of his four Bond movies and has spent months away from his family. Sources say he is keen to do another Bond film but Weisz, who married him in 2011, is less keen.

"Bond is in his blood but he's had so many injuries and has ongoing chronic pains, which Rachel is seriously worried about, and she doesn't want him to pile on more injuries," according to a source.

"She just wants him to turn the page, even though he loves the challenge and the dare."

Craig himself has previously said: "I hurt myself every day. I've had my right shoulder reconstructed, my knees operated on and my thumb hurts."

On Spectre, the latest Bond film, he required a knee operation after suffering an injury filming a fight scene with the villain Mr Hinx.

Part of the risk is that Craig insists on doing many of the stunts himself.

Gary Powell, chief stunt co-ordinator, said: "I don't have to prepare Daniel for the stunts. He comes in ready and knows what he's got to do. We go through the ideas together but mentally he

comes in strong – that's just his character.

"He's confident of his abilities, which he has every right to be because he's a bloody good actor. There's no ego there. He'll say, 'I can do this, and let the stunt person do that'. He does all his car chases – he's a very good driver. He's more than capable of doing everything, all his own stunts. It's just a logistical thing.

"If he's not doing a stunt, it's not because he can't, it's because he's busy on the main unit. That's the reason we have doubles for him, because he can't be everywhere at once within the time we have to shoot the film."

The source said that Weisz, whose film credits include The Mummy and The Constant Gardener, had not asked Craig to rule out doing another Bond, but had pointed out how difficult it was for him to be away from the family for up to six months and for her to watch him suffering injuries.

According to the source, Craig has taken his wife's anxiety into account, which is why he is trying to work around the decision and is still undecided. "Daniel will ultimately do what is best for his marriage, that's the reality, but he wants to do another Bond," the source said. "It could go either way."

Bronze rooster is 'new Rhodes' in college row

Sian Griffiths and Roland White

STUDENTS have called for a bronze cockerel that is the symbol of a Cambridge college to be "repatriated" to Africa in the latest row over Britain's colonial past.

After a debate last week at Jesus College, students voted in favour of telling the college's master that the cockerel – or okukor, as they preferred to call it – should be handed back in a ceremony to a royal palace in Nigeria.

The sculpture, which has pride of place in the college's dining hall, was among hundreds of bronze works of art looted from Africa at the end of the 19th century after a British naval expedition.

It was adopted as a symbol of Jesus College in a nod to the surname of its founder, John Alcock, a former Bishop of Ely. Three cockerels' heads appear on the college's crest.

Although students voted unanimously to return the bronze, the debate became heated when one described the original 11-page motion drawn up by the "Benin bronze committee" as a "paternalistic and colonial narrative ... disrespectful to the Benin people".

Jason Okundaye, a Pembroke College student, said more black voices should be involved in drawing up the demand for repatriation, which will be debated next month by the college's council.

In a case that has parallels with Greece's Elgin Marbles, Nigeria has repeatedly sought the return of hundreds of "Benin bronzes" since gaining independence in 1960. Only 50



The statues of a cockerel at Jesus College and Rhodes at Oriel

remain in the country, while there are thought to be more than 2,000 in museums and in private collections abroad.

The bronzes are the best-known examples of Benin art, created by the Edo people from the 13th century onwards. Westerners initially found it incredible that people "supposedly so primitive and savage" were responsible for the art, and even suggested that Portuguese traders must have taught them the skills.

Last week one student said the cockerel looked set to become the "new Cecil Rhodes", referring to a controversial campaign by Oxford students to remove a statue of the Victorian tycoon from Oriel College, where he was a student, on the grounds it represented racism and colonialism.

The Rhodes row made headlines around the world as Oxford alumni – many now world figures – weighed in on both sides of the debate.

Commenting on the Jesus College bronze, a spokesman

for Cambridge University said: "Recognising that ethical issues are of great importance, Jesus College has structures in place through which these matters can be raised by its members. The request by students is being considered within these processes."

Naomi Wolf, the American feminist and academic, said: "I think it is wonderful the students have voted to repatriate the cockerel sculpture. I thoroughly support it.

"It is exactly the right thing to do. It was theft and Nigeria has asked for the bronzes back. One of the things British colonialism involved was theft and genocide. This looks like a pretty clear example of theft of a national heritage."

Wolf, who studied for her doctorate at Oxford, added: "I hope this ends with a beautiful repatriation ceremony where Nigerian representatives come and have dinner at high table at Jesus College and get their cockerel back."

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