

MONRAKER

Craig wants Italian star back for super tech Bond

EXCLUSIVE

by **Sharon Feinstein**

DANIEL Craig wants Italian screen goddess Monica Bellucci back for the next 007 film.

The actress caused a stir as the oldest ever Bond girl when she appeared, aged 51, as Lucia Sciarra in 2015's Spectre. Now planning is under way for the next film in the series that has produced thrillers such as Dr No, Thunderball, Moonraker and Skyfall.

And sources say Craig, 49, has made clear his choice of leading lady.

With Bond 25 set for release in November 2019, an insider told us: "He wants Monica Bellucci back, that's for sure." She will be

55 when the next Bond film comes out.

Sources say the plot idea came from a project dreamed up by billionaire Tesla entrepreneur Elon Musk, 46, who bought Bond's Lotus Esprit submarine car from The Spy Who Loved Me.

He is said to have plans for craft to take passengers straight up into space then back down to their destination elsewhere in the world.

Film insiders confirm the latest instalment of the franchise will tap into all the newest technology.

A source said: "Bond needs to keep up with the times and will be looking into Elon Musk's world, space-crafts, planes that can fly across the earth in an hour, cars turning into

submarines. That's what we need to include now. Daniel's stunts are going to move to a new level and have to include things that were shown in space movies like Interstellar.

"He's involved every step of the way, as he always is, and he's bursting with enthusiasm and excitement."

The source hinted that North Korea and a nuclear threat will be part of the script.

Filming will once again include scenes with thousands of extras, incredible costumes and grand spectacles, this time thought to be set in South Africa.

It has also been reported that Craig wants highly regarded Denis Villeneuve, who was behind thriller Sicario and sci-fi hit Arrival, to direct it.

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00-HEAVEN : Daniel and Monica in 2015

US saving terror city

ISLAMIC State's Syrian stronghold of Raqqa is about to be liberated by US-led coalition troops.

At least 100 jihadists have surrendered leaving poorly armed, isolated IS fighters holding only a tiny part of the war-torn city.

Hundreds of terrified civilians have fled but US officials estimate 4,000 are still trapped there.

An official said of IS: "They can still fight but will no longer determine the fate of the battle."

8ft snake in laundry

A MAN who thought he had a rat in his airing cupboard peeped inside and found an 8ft snake.

David Dawes, 30, heard a "scurrying" sound so he cautiously investigated.

He said after seeing the creature curled up on the tank he "gently closed the door again" before calling animal welfare experts.

David, of Swansea, later took it to a pet shop. Staff identified it as a rat-eating Taiwan beauty snake.

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