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Forty years ago, Roger Moore first donned Bond's tuxedo. From that moment on, he played the part of Ian Fleming's most famous character for close to 30 years. Indeed, he was seen as the longest-serving Bond - 007 - ever. Moore's first outing as the secret agent was in 1973's *Live and Let Die* which had him up against blaxploitation legend Yaphet Kotto. By this point Bond was a changed man from his predecessors. He was softer, more prone to gags and action scenes, and less focused on serious espionage. Moore's interpretation of Bond saw 007 become both the most slapstick and the most pantomime of all the Bonds. Bond returned to British shores after a trip to Harlem in New York City in Roger Moore's third outing, 1974's *The Man with the Golden Gun*. Christopher Lee played Francisco Scaramanga, another blaxploitation icon; Michael Lonsdale played Bond's nemesis Mr. Big in an otherwise forgettable entry in the series. This film marked a change of direction for Bond movies: it showed a marked increase in lavish locations and a desire to spend more money on making them look spectacular too. That was to change in the following year. *The Diamonds are Forever* saw Moore's Bond at his most ridiculous point, getting into a series of wacky scrapes with the likes of Dolly Parton, who played Tiffany Case. It was also his first outing with Desmond Llewelyn as Q, the character having been introduced in *For Your Eyes Only*. Moore's final outing as 007 came in 1977's *Moonraker*, one of the most poorly received films in the franchise. Moore continued to be treated more lightly by fans and critics alike after his departure from Bond - even seen as an unnecessary character by some. Over the years, his Bond was criticised for being more silly than serious and Moore's entries were rarely seen as some of the best of the series, certainly in comparison to some rivals. Yet some people felt his more "lighthearted" take on Bond was effective at a time when audiences had become tired of serious spy movies. While Moore never returned to play Bond on screen (he did however appear in a spoof version of *Casino Royale* at the opening ceremony of the London Olympics - see below), he has continued to be an active part of promoting and celebrating 007. His voice-over work has been heard on numerous official James Bond video games and he has appeared in many unofficial ones too (see below). Roger Moore was known for his sense of duty to the franchise. He was the only actor to have appeared in every Bond film released since 1962. Moore was not always available to play Bond, whether it be for work or personal commitments. He has admitted that while he did not mind being replaced by other actors, there was one film he would have liked to have made in which he was unavailable. Moore even admitted that he considered leaving the film industry altogether after being considered for the role of Gandalf in Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. He acknowledges that he missed playing Bond on screen but states that had he been offered another movie like *Diamonds Are Forever* then: "...

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