**Why There Will Never Be a Female James Bond**

Don’t hold your breath for a gender-swapped James Bond, ever. For years some fans of the classic British spy franchise have been asking for a female 007, to no avail. Now the overseer of the Bond franchise is putting her foot down on the idea completely, nixing the hope that Bond’s future is female.

“He can be of any color, but he is male,” said **Barbara Broccoli,** the long-term producer and overseer of the Bond franchise, in an interview with [Variety.](https://variety.com/2020/film/features/james-bond-no-time-to-die-barbara-broccoli-michael-wilson-1203466601/) She was discussing future iterations of the franchise after **Daniel Craig,** who has played the suave spy since 2006’s Casino Royale, hangs up his hat.

“I believe we should be creating new characters for women—strong female characters,” Broccoli continued, explaining her reasoning. “I’m not particularly interested in taking a male character and having a woman play it. I think women are far more interesting than that.”

Her remarks echo previous comments by Oscar-winning actor **Rachel Weisz,** who happens to be married to Craig. “Why not create your own story rather than jumping onto the shoulders and being compared to all those other male predecessors?” she said in [a 2018 interview](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2018/02/rachel-weisz-female-james-bond). “Women are really fascinating and interesting, and should get their own stories.”

Still, that hasn’t stopped certain actors from throwing their hats in the ring. **Emilia Clarke,** **Priyanka Chopra,** and **Gillian Anderson** have all openly said they want to play Bond, while **Idris Elba**—long a fan favorite to take over after Craig—has said the next 007 film should [star a woman.](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2018/01/idris-elba-james-bond-woman) Alas, per the powers that be, that’s never going to happen.

However, it does seem like the Bond franchise is evolving regarding its callous treatment of women overall. **Ana de Armas,** who plays new character Paloma in the upcoming No Time to Die, [has said](https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2019-11-22/ana-de-armas-knives-out-james-bond) the latest installment is “another step toward giving women a more powerful and strong place in the films.” There [were rumors](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2019/07/bond-25-lashana-lynch-new-007) that costar **Lashana Lynch** was being set up as the next Bond, but [the trailer revealed](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2019/12/no-time-to-die-full-trailer-james-bond) that she’s actually playing a 00 agent in her own right who can more than keep up with Bond.

Plus, Fleabag auteur **Phoebe Waller-Bridge** was brought on to the writing team, [saying explicitly](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2019/05/phoebe-waller-bridge-james-bond-women) that her focus was on making sure the franchise “treats the women properly.”

“It has just got to evolve,” she said. And so it shall, just not with a lady as the lead.