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CONNERY

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"Never Say Never Again," a remake of his earlier hit "Thunderball." And although he insists that he's finally said never for good, Connery can't hide a continuing interest in the series' development.

"To be perfectly honest, I think that one is too old, the same way as Roger [Moore, who replaced Connery in the series] was. And [current Bond] Timothy Dalton does very well. Of course, his Bond doesn't have the sexual appetite that mine did, and I would imagine that's due to serious consideration about AIDS. Still, quite frivolously perhaps, I al-

ways thought that was one of the nicer aspects of the role."

Hanging up his Beretta was a risky move on Connery's part, one that's paid off in some great movies and been paid for by a few stinkers. He says he's happy with his career — the only role he ever coveted was Dr. Zhivago, although he would have liked to have appeared in "Blow Up," he says. "I met Antonioni before he made the movie, and I couldn't understand what he was talking about. So I didn't do that one, either" — though some feel that his general disdain for Hollywood, coupled with a tenacious litigious streak, have cost the actor some choice assignments.

Connery has also gotten himself into trouble because of a comment he made on a Barbara Walters special some months ago — that to strike a woman was not the worst thing you could do to her. The comment was construed as an endorsement of slapping women.

"I wouldn't change anything I said in that show," Connery said. "It's just that the cut Barbara ran was entirely hers... What I did say was somewhat lifted out of context, which was that to do a head job, to psychologically demoralize and destroy a person, is much more damaging than an open-handed smack.

"There was nothing earth-shattering about it, and I still don't think it was that important. I was surprised by the enormous response from the public, however. The day after the show aired, I was driving in Los Angeles when a rather elegant lady pulled up alongside me in her car and did this," Connery recalled, holding up the middle finger of one hand. "Then other people sidled up to me and made rather interesting remarks, people who would never speak to me normally. Due to censorship, I can't really give you all the details of what they said."

We can only assume that Connery's right and they got him wrong. After all, would a man who really advocated beating women give his only-ever Oscar to his wife? No court in Hollywood would convict him with evidence like that.

PAUL HOGAN
"Crocodile"
DUNDEE II
PG
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