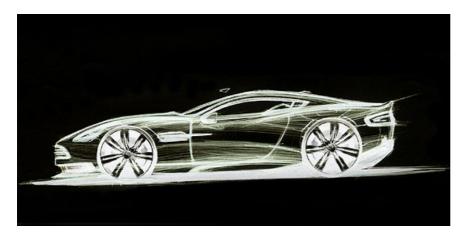
CLASSIC DRIVER

Bond to drive all-new Aston in Casino Royale



After a visit by new Bond actor Daniel Craig to Gaydon last Friday, Aston Martin have just announced that the agent's car in the next film 'Casino Royale' will be an Aston, but one strictly from the 'Secret Files'

The film, produced by Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli for Eon Productions, is due to be released in November 2006 and during Craig's visit to the factory he took the opportunity of viewing the featured car, as well as a short test drive.

Craig met Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ulrich Bez, and members of the workforce. Dr Bez said: "It is great news that Bond will drive an Aston Martin again and we have built him something special to enable him to do his job in style."

As is appropriate with Her Majesty's Government's most important secret agent, full details of the car to be used in the film are being kept under wraps, but the company did confirm that it would be a new model called the **Aston Martin DBS**.

Bond's celluloid association with Aston Martin began in 1964 with the film 'Goldfinger' when the DB5 was fitted with 'optional extras' such as ejector seats and machine-guns. The last Bond film, 'Die Another Day', featured Aston Martin's current flagship model, the Vanquish.

In the original books Bond drove a variety of cars including a special-bodied R-Type Bentley Continental as well as an Aston Martin DB2. A DBS made a brief appearance in 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service'.

Text: Steve Wakefield

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