

Queen Elizabeth and James Bond parachute into the Olympic Opening Ceremony - sort of...



The Queen of England made her film debut in style, getting escorted to the Olympics by James Bond and parachuting into Olympic Stadium from a helicopter in a short film shown at Friday night's Opening Ceremony. Movie magic was responsible for the death-defying jump - both Bond actor Daniel Craig and the 86-year-old monarch were portrayed by stunt doubles for the live shot, of course. But that was indeed Queen Elizabeth sitting in her quarters, welcoming James Bond and accepting his invitation to the Olympics in Danny Boyle's three-minute film. It was believed to be the Queen's first ever appearance in a movie.

Boyle and his crew were given unprecedented access to her quarters for the one-day shoot in April.

Nitpickers will point out that the film showed Bond and the Queen leaving in daylight and arriving at nightfall. And that the Queen never was shown in the helicopter, only in Buckingham Palace with her corgis in tow.

# Olympics 2012

## Opening Ceremony mysteries solved

The Opening Ceremonies of London's 2012 Olympic Games have come and gone, leaving many mysteries in their wake. Here, are answers to some of the top head-scratchers from Danny Boyle's incredibly British event.

### Why do the announcers speak French first?

That's because French and English are the two official Olympic languages. Remember, the modern Games were founded by Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin. If not for him, there would be no Olympics. But even if it is a requirement by the IOC that the first language should be French, it does seem to add one more confusing element to the mix.

### Did the queen really parachute into the Games?

Well, no. But Her Majesty did show her common touch, participating in her first acting role with no less than Daniel Craig's James Bond as her co-star. The two met up at her palace residence with her dogs in tow and took off in a helicopter together, headed to the stadium, and then, yes, parachuted down to the event. And what an entrance, even if it was a stunt double dressed as the queen.

### Who was that singer?

In one of the few quieter moments, performers paid a tribute to war dead and the victims of the 7/7 terrorist attacks. To add to the mood, the soulful singer Emeli Sande sang the somber hymn "Abide With Me." The singer grabbed attention when she won the 2012 Brit Award in the Critic's Choice category, and whose album "Our Version of Events" reached the No. 1 position on the U.K. charts. She's also a songwriter, and has penned tunes for artistes including Susan Boyle, Leona Lewis, Tinie Tempah, Cheryl Cole, Cher Lloyd, and Alesha Dixon, among others, and was dubbed his "favorite songwriter at the minute" by Simon Cowell.

### What's with the giant baby head?

The child's head is a tribute to the Great Ormond Street Hospital staff. Viewers were treated to hundreds of hospital beds, complete with dancing nurses and their child patients. The celebration of the National Health Service, a treasured national institution that started in 1948 amid the ruins of war-devastated Britain included the world-famous Great Ormond Street Hospital with the appearance of that giant baby head. Certainly, there was no missing that big baby.



Mr. Bean, Becks and the internet's inventor make Opening Ceremony appearances



Fans of British humour received a nice surprise during Friday's Olympic Opening Ceremony. Rowan Atkinson, or as he's better known, Mr. Bean, joined the symphony to play "Chariots of Fire." He became so bored from playing his one note that he pulled out his phone, took some pictures, sneezed, then day-dreamed his part in "Chariots of Fire." With the help of a car, he won the race on the beach. He was far from the only famous Brit to get a moment in the spotlight.



David Beckham looking all suave.



Sir Tim Berners-Lee. He invented the internet.