

Housework... What I did for company... My choices... Sean Connery knows better in real life... More movies?

All, instead of driving to Rochester Minnesota today I spent the day at home doing what I only can describe as housework. Relatively successful. I will not bore anyone with the details.

What I did for company...

It used to be that FlowerBear would follow me around as I took care of these chores. I always knew that she was close by because I could hear her claws clicking on the wood laminate flooring. Somehow, I used to think that she was supervising. That was okay with me.

Without my dog to keep me company I turned to Netflix. All I had to do was find something interesting, then watch it on the iPod. No need to watch, listening was OK. Easy.

My choices...

To be honest, my choices were really not very good. Having completed *FROM* and *WEST WING* during the past couple of weeks I was looking for something similarly well done. I decided that I wanted to see *AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT* and *Dr. No*. After re-watching them I wondered why I liked them in the first place.

AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT was released in 1995. Starring Annette Benning and Michael Douglas, it was a pleasant enough fantasy about the trials and tribulations of a president who is a widower with a teenage daughter. He meets a lobbyist played by Annette Benning. In an improbable series of plot twists they fall in love. They are both Democrats. Richard Dreyfus plays an aggressive Republican Senator who does not approve of the clearly sexual relationship and isn't afraid to tell anybody about how immoral it is. The icing on the cake is that he comes up with a very old photograph of Annette Benning's character burning an American flag during a protest.

Although the movie got good reviews at the time, I don't think that it aged very well. However, the movie itself was well-intentioned. It was supposed to shed some light on the difficulties that anyone who is president might have if he or she were to pursue an appropriate romance. (Whatever that means.) Interestingly, Aaron Sorkin was the writer. That explains 2 things: (1) why the movie was well written & (2) that he had the right instincts to later develop *WEST WING*, which began four years after the release of this movie.

Dr. No kept me company for the afternoon stage of housecleaning. This was the first of the James Bond series. Released in 1962, I distinctly remember seeing it at the Westmont Theatre, in Haddon Township, NJ, where I grew up. It was an exciting movie at the time. The plot was exotic. The locations were beautiful. And Sean Connery portrayed James Bond as clever, suave, a lady-killer, and fearless. All portrayed as sterling attributes. But in the first James Bond film they were not fully developed. That came later.

What surprised me most was some of the dialogue. There are things said to women by the not so innocently flirtatious James Bond that would result in complaints to human resources, possibly a lawsuit, where they uttered today to a female employee. The essential role of the female characters was to be charmed by James Bond, then seduced.

I don't remember being distressed by this in 1992. I am sure that many guys figured that this film was a learning experience. All they had to do was imitate James Bond. If they could pull it off, then some female's clothes would come off. Remarkably superficial.

If a guy were to take the 1992 approach today, he should expect to be hit upside the head. It would not be a terrific career move for the guy.

Sean Connery knows better in real life...

Friend of mine has a very attractive daughter who, as a teenager, was able to establish herself as a model. As part of her routine, despite not being 18 years old, she had the opportunity to attend a great many interesting parties in New York City. It was simply part of the gig.

One day I was talking to her about the experience of going to all of these events. I asked her what it was like. She said it was interesting and that she had a couple of unusual experiences. I asked her, "Like what?"

"Well, I was at a party watching what was going on, having a good time. Out of nowhere Sean Connery approached me and began a conversation. I must've looked fairly grown-up to him because he offered to get me a drink."

I asked, "How did that go?"

She responded, "I thanked him very much and told him that I was 16 and didn't drink. Then he vanished rapidly. My brush with celebrity greatness."

More movies?

Well, I think that for the moment I'm going to cut back on movies. Instead I'm going to look for some good detective radio shows for company. Also, I will be listening to *Urban View* on Sirius XM. It offers intelligent two-way talk programming that matches most my political views. (And that doesn't happen very often these days.)

First yawn...

Until tomorrow...

Ken

Ken Artis
Black River Falls, WI USA

In case you need reminding: www.artisandwatts.com

