

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 19 October, 2012

50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special **First on Foxtel, on BBC Knowledge**

The brand new **50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special** will screen Sunday 25 November at 7:30pm on BBC Knowledge. This is the first Top Gear programme to screen first on Foxtel under the new deal that sees new series and Top Gear specials premiere on BBC Knowledge in Australia. This special premieres soon after the cinema release of the latest Bond film, *Skyfall* on 22 November, 2012 in Australia.

No action hero is more closely associated with cars than Bond. As the cinema character celebrates his half century, Top Gear looks at his amazing history with machines on wheels.

Richard Hammond takes to the wheel of some of Bond's most iconic cars, including the original Aston Martin DB5 complete with gadgets, the Lotus Esprit SI and some of the lesser known Bond cars such as the beautiful and rare Toyota 2000GT, Blower Bentley and the not so beautiful Citroen 2CV, and AMC Hornet.

Richard talks to Bond actors, Daniel Craig, Sir Roger Moore, producer Michael G Wilson, and legendary directors Guy Hamilton and Vic Armstrong for the inside story behind some of the most memorable action sequences committed to celluloid.

Having looked at some of the greatest Bond Car gadgets, Richard tinkers in the famed Top Gear workshop to build his own 'Bond Cars On A Budget'. These include Richard's take on the *Die Another Day* invisible Aston Martin Vanquish, and doing something even the Bond film-makers themselves could never achieve - to build a working underwater submarine Lotus sports car.

And bringing the Bond story right up to date, Richard travels to the *Skyfall* set in Turkey and reports on the dramatic car chase sequences in the new film. He talks to Daniel Craig about his training sessions on the Top Gear track with the former Stig, and Ola Rapace on what it's like being a Bond Baddie.

Taking to the rooftops of Istanbul with motocross legend Robbie Maddison, Richard learns that along with the glamour, there are a lot of bumps and bruises involved when you are a James Bond double in an epic action sequence.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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