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Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge reacts as she arrives ahead of the World Premiere of the James Bond 007 film "No Time to Die".



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (second left) and Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (left) stand with Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales (right) and Britain's Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall as they arrive for the World Premiere of the James Bond 007 film 'No Time to Die' at the Royal Albert Hall in west London. — AFP photos



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (left) meets with English actor Daniel Craig ahead of the World Premiere.

## IT IS A ROYAL AFFAIR AT WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW BOND MOVIE

'No Time To Die' may have faced delays since last year due to the pandemic, but makers pulled out a starry world premiere on Tuesday in London to make up for all the lost time. Along with the film's impressive star cast, in attendance was British royalty as Duke and Duchess of Cambridge joined Duke and Duchess of Cornwall on the red carpet of the premiere that took place in

London's Royal Albert Hall. The royal couples were the guest of honor at the event.

All eyes were though on Kate Middleton who pulled out all the sartorial stops. The Duchess of Cambridge hit the red carpet in a glittering gold cape gown by Jenny Packham adorned with sequins and beadwork. Matching metallic pumps, gold circular statement earrings and an elegant updo completed Middleton's look

for the night.

Craig could serve in the Royal Navy following his appointment as honorary commander. The 53-year-old James Bond star said he was "honored" to receive the title, but now fears he could actually be called up. He said: "The trouble is, I think now I've enlisted. There was a piece of paper with something written on it and I think there might be some small print there." The award-winning actor - who has played the iconic spy character since 2006 - was bestowed with the honorary title ahead of the premiere of his final Bond film 'No Time to Die.'

First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, the head of the Royal Navy, confirmed the news in a statement. He said: "I am delighted to welcome honorary Commander Daniel Craig to the Royal Navy. Daniel Craig is well known for being Commander Bond for the last 15 years - a naval officer who keeps Britain safe through missions across the globe. That's what the real Royal Navy does every day, using technology and skill the same way as Bond himself." — Agencies



Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (left) meets US singer-songwriter Finneas O'Connell (center) and US singer-songwriter Billie Eilish ahead of the World Premiere.

**Eilish** suffered 'intense writer's block' before penning 'No Time To Die'

Billie Eilish suffered "an intense amount of writer's block" when she tried to pen the 'No Time To Die' theme song. The 19-year-old singer wrote the song with the help of her brother Finneas O'Connell, but she admits that it wasn't a straightforward process. Billie said: "We had an intense amount of writer's block as soon as we were called to action." Finneas added: "We rented out a studio to go and try to write it - and we didn't write anything good." Billie and Finneas, 24, eventually ended up penning the song on a tour bus in Texas.

Billie explained: "Finneas came up with this piano motif and immediately we were like, 'Ohhhhhh', and we wrote the whole song." Billie and Finneas had both dreamed of creating a Bond theme song long before they were offered the opportunity. The 'Bad Guy' hitmaker told the BBC: "We'd always wanted to write a Bond song - even before it was an option." And her sibling added: "We'd been writing motifs and thinking of melodies for a couple years, just as far as like, 'Wouldn't it be cool if one day we got to do a Bond song?' And when we got wind that they were making the 25th, we immediately set out to meet with Barbara [Broccoli, producer] and plead our case." Meanwhile, Finneas previously admitted that they were "lucky" with the name of the new movie. — Bang Showbiz



Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge (left) meets with English actor Daniel Craig ahead of the World Premiere.

## DIOR goes sporty in post-pandemic burst of color

The coronavirus pandemic has triggered a radical change at one of France's oldest brands, with Dior tapping a 1960s vibe for a sporty, vividly colorful return to the Paris catwalk on Tuesday. Dior's 2022 spring-summer women's collection reflected a world that had learned the value of the exercise and yearned for a bit of playful "joie-de-vivre" over the last 18 months. Full of fluorescent greens and oranges, neon blues and big butterfly

fits. And there were lots of scuba-fabric rigid shapes echoing Dior's famous sports and ski looks of the 1960s. "We understood the importance of sport during the pandemic, not just as a performance, but with the idea of feeling good. We were locked up, we had the need to maintain ourselves physically," said Chiuri. It was a marked shift for the designer, with far fewer of the airy, floaty evening dresses that have been her trademark since joining Dior in 2016.

As the first woman to lead the brand, Chiuri has often sought to rework the iconic Dior Bar jacket, moving away from the ultra-feminised hourglass shape that defined the brand's early, postwar years. It was entirely absent on Tuesday as she opted for boxier, less figure-hugging shapes.

**'It's very different'**

"I wanted to show that there's more than just the Bar jacket," Chiuri told AFP. The new collection came as a surprise to Dior's artisans. "It's minimalist, very geometric with rigid fabric. There's very little embroidery. Compared to our usual work, it's very different," said Pascal Coppin, head of one of Dior's dress workshops. "I like it a lot, it's a radical change. It's cool, it's youthful, it's optimistic," he added. "We need that-the colors-to get away from the black and dark blue, to see prints that are almost a bit Brazilian."

There was a sense of release in the show itself, too, with no more social distancing and a relaxed attitude to masks among many of the spectators. The stage was playful, too, with the models rotating around a huge circular, stepped platform like something out of a game show. "People use fashion to express themselves, to play," said Chiuri. "In the end, fashion is a big performance." — AFP



prints, it was a far cry from the subtle chic with which Dior is typically associated. "There is a change in way we feel-we feel more vulnerable, and everyone reacts in their own way," designer Maria Grazia Chiuri told AFP ahead of the show.

"Some want to shut themselves away, others want to live to the full. For me, I want to live well every day," she said. Sportswear was prominent, with looks based on jazzed-up boxing and judo out-



Models present creations for Dior Womenswear Spring Summer 2022 collection in Paris on September 28, 2021 during the Paris Fashion Week. — AFP photos