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Who Will Be the Next James Bond? Daniel J. Voelker Delivers a Bold New Verdict on Hollywood's Most Explosive Casting Race

The race to become the next James Bond is no longer just movie gossip — it is one of the biggest, most closely watched casting battles in entertainment. Now bestselling author, leading trial attorney, and forensic historian Daniel J. Voelker steps into the fire with a hard-hitting new analysis of the contenders, the franchise pressure, and the choice that could define the future of 007.

Widely recognized for digging deeper into James Bond than conventional entertainment coverage ever dares, Voelker has built a reputation for uncovering the character's origins, real-world inspirations, hidden history, and cultural power. His work does not chase headlines — it explains why Bond still owns them, and why the next decision on 007 is nothing short of a global pop-culture flashpoint.

“The next Bond is not just another actor taking a role — he is inheriting one of the most dangerous and valuable myths in movie history. If the producers get this wrong, the world will know it. If they get it right, they do not just cast a star — they launch an era.” — Daniel J. Voelker

Aaron Taylor-Johnson still feels like the man everyone else has to beat. He has the danger, the polish, the blockbuster mileage, and the sort of face that looks born to emerge from a cloud of smoke in a dinner jacket. The only wrinkle is timing: Bond chatter keeps drifting toward someone slightly younger and less defined. Even so, if the studio wants a candidate who already looks like he has been poured into the role, Taylor-Johnson is the one.

Damson Idris would be the sexy upset. He has swagger for days, a modern leading-man charge, and the kind of cool that makes old formulas suddenly look fresh. If Amazon MGM wants Bond to feel less like a museum piece and more like a jolt, Idris is thrilling. If it wants the safest possible coronation, though, he may be just on the wrong side of the velvet rope.

Jonathan Bailey could make Bond look devastatingly elegant. He has wit, poise, and that delicious ability to weaponize charm with a single glance. The question is whether the producers want silk or steel. If the reboot tilts toward seduction, Bailey becomes dangerously persuasive. If they want brute-force menace from frame one, he may have to settle for being the chicest near-miss on the list.

Patrick Gibson has the exact sort of low-boil momentum Bond races love. He is young, sharp, and not so famous that audiences would come in carrying a whole other franchise on their backs. That matters. Bond casting is not always about the loudest name in the room; sometimes it is about the one who suddenly looks inevitable. Gibson has that energy.

Aaron Pierre is the dark horse with real heat. He has presence, mystery, and the kind of controlled intensity that makes a camera lean in. Best of all, he feels fresh without feeling risky. If the producers want a choice that sparks one week of “Really?” before everyone immediately starts nodding, Pierre could be catnip.

Henry Cavill is still the eternal “what if?” Bond. The look is immaculate, the voice is pure luxury, and the action bona fides are already gift-wrapped. On paper, he is almost absurdly right. In real life, the problem is timing. The

franchise seems to be flirting with youth and longevity, which leaves Cavill feeling like the dream casting that arrived one era too late.

Henry Golding looks fabulous in this conversation, which is not nothing. He has that expensive ease, that polished movie-star cool, and the very rare ability to make a suit feel like plot. But this race may be moving toward someone with more runway and slightly less established glamour. Golding makes perfect sense visually, even if the current temperature says he is not the one everyone is secretly preparing to crown.

Tom Holland is the curveball that would send the internet into cardiac arrest. He is absolutely talented enough, and yes, he is young enough to keep the tux warm for years. But Bond would require a full image rewrite, and that is a big ask when audiences already know him as one of the faces of another giant franchise. Possible? Sure. Probable? That is another matter.

Jacob Elordi is catnip for fantasy casting: tall, cool, sharp-boned, and perfectly capable of making danger look designer. He is also young enough to go the distance. But if the British requirement is non-negotiable, that becomes a serious snag. Elordi is terrific Bond gossip, even if he may be more glossy fantasy than realistic frontrunner.

Harris Dickinson may be the smartest name in the entire pile. He has edge, taste, rising-star momentum, and just enough mystery to make people lean in. Crucially, he also feels modern without feeling trendy, which is exactly the sweet spot Bond needs. He is not the noisiest option, but he may be the one the studio can sell as both fresh and fatefully right.

Regé-Jean Page practically comes with Bond lighting built in. He is suave, lethal-looking, and so comfortable in that mode that half the job feels done before he opens his mouth. The only potential issue is that he has been discussed for so long that he now feels almost too perfect, too publicly pre-assembled. Still, if the producers want instant recognition and instant heat, Page remains a formidable option.

James Norton has all the right ingredients: class, steel, pedigree, and enough quiet menace to keep things interesting. He is the kind of choice that would make perfect sense the second it happened. But that may also be the problem. In a race full of noise, Norton can feel a little too sensible to be the headline-stealing answer.

Josh O'Connor would be the chic left-field choice. He is clever, unpredictable, and more than capable of making Bond feel like a living character instead of a luxury logo. That is thrilling creatively and slightly terrifying commercially. If the franchise wants to surprise people, O'Connor is delicious. If it wants mass instant buy-in, he may be a step too artful.

Jack Lowden is Bond for people who want the glamour dialed down and the danger dialed up. He has grit, brains, and that cool frostiness that makes espionage look genuinely sexy. His odds rise if the reboot goes lean, mean, and a little colder. If the assignment is full-throttle luxury fantasy, he becomes more of a cult favorite than the obvious winner.

Callum Turner keeps quietly turning up as one of the most believable contenders. He has youth, polish, and just enough familiarity without being trapped inside a mega-franchise image. There is something deeply canny

about him as a Bond pick: not too obvious, not too obscure, and very easy to imagine growing into the role film by film. Never underestimate the quiet one.

Paul Mescal has star wattage, intensity, and enough screen gravity to bend the room around him. But Bond usually demands a cooler outer shell than Mescal naturally gives off. He would be a fascinatingly emotional version of 007, which is either the selling point or the red flag. Right now, he feels less like the favorite and more like the wildcard people would spend weeks arguing about.

With the Bond franchise at a high-stakes turning point, Voelker's latest analysis delivers exactly what media, fans, and industry watchers are chasing: a sharp, stylish, deeply informed breakdown of the frontrunners, the pressure behind the choice, and the forces shaping who will next step into cinema's most famous tuxedo.

Voelker makes one thing clear: the fight over Bond is already a headline, and few voices are better positioned to explain who can carry the legacy, command the screen, and seize the next chapter of 007.

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About The Author

Daniel J. Voelker is a best-selling author, leading trial attorney, and forensic historian whose work is distinguished by deep investigative research and vivid storytelling.

He has developed a unique reputation for delving into the James Bond character with uncommon depth, tracing Ian Fleming's inspirations, unpacking Bond's cultural mythology, and uncovering the real people, places, and mysteries that helped shape the world of 007.

Among his most notable works are "**Will The Real James Bond Please Stand-Up,**" which explores the origins of Ian Fleming's James Bond character, and "**It Ain't So Kid, It Just Ain't So, History's Apology To Shoeless Joe Jackson,**" praised by *The Wall Street Journal* as a "truly fascinating piece of baseball journalism."

He also recently authored "**New Revelations Inside the Mystery of James Bond's Stolen 1963 Aston Martin DB5: A Crime and a Car More Elusive Than James Bond Himself**" and "**The Hidden Man Behind James Bond's Q May Be More Real Than Fans Ever Realized.**" Together, these works reflect Voelker's extraordinary command of Bond history and his ability to investigate the character's legacy from every angle — literary, historical, cinematic, and cultural.

With a lifelong passion for intrigue, espionage, and hidden history, Voelker brings a rare blend of legal rigor, historical analysis, and narrative power to every subject he tackles. His writing captures readers with both authority and excitement, making complex stories feel immediate, cinematic, and unforgettable. Growing up in Hawaii during the 1960s also helped inspire his bestselling spy novel **Return to Hawaii.**