



THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY



DiNO DE LAURENTIIS

presents

A MICHAEL CRICHTON Film

SEAN CONNERY DONALD SUTHERLAND LESLEY-ANNE DOWN

THE FIRST GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

A JOHN FOREMAN Production

Photographed by

GEOFFREY UNSWORTH O.B.E., B.S.C.

Music by JERRY GOLDSMITH

Screenplay by MICHAEL CRICHTON

Based on his novel

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

Produced by JOHN FOREMAN

Directed by MICHAEL CRICHTON



CAST

Edward Pierce SEAN CONNERY
Agar DONALD SUTHERLAND
Miriam LESLEY-ANNE DOWN
Edgar Trent ALAN WEBB
Henry Fowler MALCOLM TERRIS
Sharp ROBERT LANG
Clean Willy WAYNE SLEEP
Burgess MICHAEL ELPHICK
Emily Trent PAMELA SALEM
Elizabeth Trent GABRIELLE LLOYD
Harranby JAMES COSSINS

McPherson JOHN BETT
Station Dispatcher PETER BENSON
Maggie JANINE DUVITSKI
Woman on Platform AGNES BERNELLE
Police Constable FRANK MCDONALD
Trent's Butler BRIAN DE SALVO
Rail Guard JOE CAHILL
Shepherd PAT LAYDE
Executioner DEREK LORD
Elderly Woman on Train RACHEL BURROWS

CREDITS

Producer JOHN FOREMAN
Director/Writer MICHAEL CRICHTON
Starling Productions Executive STANLEY SOPEL
United Artists Representative ALEX RICHARDS
Production Manager AL BURGESS
Director of

Photography GEOFFREY UNSWORTH
Production Designer MAURICE CARTER
Costume Designer ANTHONY MENDLESON
Editor DAVID BRETHERTON
Music JERRY GOLDSMITH
First Assistant Director ANTHONY WAYE
Second Assistant Directors GERRY GAVIGAN
CHRIS CARRERAS

Unit Manager (Ireland) JACK PHELAN
Location Manager (Ireland) DON GERAGHTY
Continuity JEAN SKINNER
Casting Director MARY SELWAY
Camera Operator GORDON HAYMAN
Focus Puller JOHN CABBELL
Sound Mixer (Ireland) LIAM SAURIN
Art Director BERT DAVEY
Assistant Art Director GEORGE RICHARDSON
Set Decorator HUGH SCAIFE
Construction Manager VIC SIMPSON
Property Master HARRY NEWMAN
Property Buyer RON QUELCH
Chief Electrician JOHN TYTHE
Wardrobe Master RICHARD POINTING
Wardrobe Mistress REBECCA BREED
Chief Make Up BASIL NEWALL
Make Up SYLVIA CROFT
Hairdresser ELAINE BOWERBANK
Production Secretary LORETTA ORDEWER
Producer's Secretary SUE EDWARDS
Director's Secretary PATTI CALHOUN
Production Accountant RON ALLDAY
Chief Special Effects IAN WINGROVE
London Contact NORMA HAZELDEN
Stills FERGUS BOURKE
Publicity WALTER ALFORD

Synopsis

In the year 1855, England and France are at war with Russia in the Crimea. To pay the English troops, once a month a train with £25,000 of gold bullion travels from London to Folkestone for shipment to France.

No one has ever robbed a moving train, but when Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) and his mistress, Miriam (LESLEY-ANNE DOWN) see a would-be robber thrown from the speeding bullion-carrying train, the seed of an idea is sown in the mind of the elegant crook.

To his friends, Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) seems simply a smart man about town. At his gentlemen's club he and several members discuss the attempted robbery from the moving train. An impossibility, they cry, to rob the train of its gold bullion. Why, the two safes holding the gold are built of steel a quarter of an inch thick and each safe has two locks. More to the point, the four keys needed to open the safes are kept separately. One is in the safe keeping of Henry Fowler (MALCOLM TERRIS), the bank manager, who wears his key around his neck at all times; one is held by Edgar Trent (ALAN WEBB), president of the bank; and finally two keys are with the railway dispatcher (PETER BENSON), who keeps them in plain view in his glass walled office — in easy sight of station crowds.

Having decided to go ahead with his attempt to rob the bullion train, Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) needs to get wax impressions of all four keys, without the tampering being discovered. He enlists as his accomplice a Cockney screws-man (an expert at picking pockets and locks) called Agar (DONALD SUTHERLAND).

Between the two of them and with the help of Miriam (LESLEY-ANNE DOWN), Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) and Agar (DONALD SUTHERLAND) attempt a series of daring "borrowings" of the keys. To get into the station dispatcher's

office, Pierce (CONNERY) decides he needs the expert work of the cat burglar, Clean Willy (WAYNE SLEEP), who is in Newgate Prison. Pierce (CONNERY) sends word that he is to escape at the next hanging. The cat burglar makes his dramatic escape, scaling the high prison walls and murderous spiked railings and eventually joins Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY), Agar (DONALD SUTHERLAND) and Miriam (LESLEY-ANNE DOWN) for the attempted robbery.

After successfully making wax impressions of all four keys comes the most dangerous part of all, where Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) makes a perilous journey across the carriage tops of the moving train back to the van carrying the two safes and their precious freight. Thanks to an ingenious ruse, Agar (DONALD SUTHERLAND) is already inside the van, ready to help Pierce (CONNERY).

The two men complete the robbery, hurling the gold out of the speeding train to a waiting accomplice. Pierce (CONNERY) now makes the same perilous journey back across the carriage tops to his own first class compartment where he resumes his appearance as an elegant traveller.

Alighting at Folkestone station however, Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) is spotted by a watchful policeman who wonders at the elegant gentleman's torn coat and the smudge of soot behind his ear. Pierce (CONNERY) is captured and taken off to stand trial. Found guilty, he is to be transferred to prison. A large crowd has gathered to watch the most daring rogue of the time taken away. An ugly old hag surges forward and kisses Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) on the mouth.

The old hag is, in fact, his mistress, Miriam (LESLEY-ANNE DOWN) in cunning disguise. She has transferred to her lover's mouth the key to his handcuffs. And who should be waiting to drive the prison van? None other than Agar (DONALD SUTHERLAND).

To the cheers of the crowd, the gentleman crook, Edward Pierce (SEAN CONNERY) and Agar (DONALD SUTHERLAND) beat off the police guards and drive away.

Running Time 1 hour 50 minutes