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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

BOND GIRL FIONA FULLERTON



Actress Fiona Fullerton became one of Britain's best-loved film, TV and theatre stars in a career spanning more than 20 years and is

perhaps best known for her role as Pola Ivanova in the James Bond film *A View To A Kill* (1985). She retired from the limelight in 1996 and has since carved out a career as a journalist, author and property expert. Fiona, 56, is married to businessman Neil Shackell and lives in Gloucestershire with their daughter, Lucy, 17, and stepson, James, 23.

"My dream had been to become a ballet dancer and, at the age of 11, I began training seriously at the Elmhurst Ballet School, Surrey. It was while performing in one of the school's productions that I was spotted and found myself making my first film, *Run Wild, Run Free* in 1969. I never looked back.

"My break came in 1972, when I was cast as Alice in *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*, starring Peter Sellers. As a child, doing a film of that magnitude with so many huge stars felt surreal. I remember switching on the lights in Oxford Street that Christmas and meeting the Queen at the premiere.

"At 18, I was one of the leads in BBC primetime hospital drama *Angels* (1975). From then on, I became one of the lucky ones who managed to secure parts easily.

"Playing Pola Ivanova in *A View To A Kill* in 1985 was a pivotal role for me and it was terribly exciting working alongside Roger Moore. But the Bond phenomenon has got so much bigger in recent years. At the time,

I was never referred to as a 'Bond girl'.

"My career was going from strength to strength in the 1980s, but I just couldn't shake the feeling that there was something missing in my life.

"In 1994, I became reacquainted with an old family friend, Neil Shackell, and we fell deeply in love. I'd been married before [to actor Simon MacCorkindale, whom she divorced in 1981], but it hadn't been the happiest period of my life. Neil was different.

"We married and had our child, Lucy, in 1995, while also raising Neil's son, James, by his late wife. Happily married and a new mum, I became even more disillusioned

with the industry, and in 1996 a terrible incident made me rethink my career entirely. There was a knock on my door while Nick was at work, and I opened it to find a murderous madman on my doorstep, with a gun. I found out that the only reason he didn't shoot was because I had my baby girl in my arms. It was a defining moment in my life and it was then that I realised I wanted to escape the limelight.

"I've since branched out into property and have my own portfolio of buy-to-lets, as well as an interior design consultancy. I also found a passion for writing. I was offered my own property advice columns in two national newspapers, which ran for 10 years. This

inspired me to write three property-focused books.

"I've just released a memoir, too, about my 12-year correspondence with a prisoner, called Alexander Alexandrowicz, who served 22 years for a crime he didn't commit. I recently met him for the first time. It was very emotional.

"I remember my acting days fondly, but my proudest professional achievement is becoming a best-selling author."

Kirsty Nutkins

Fiona is an ambassador for Rated People. To find a reliable tradesman in your area, visit RatedPeople.com or download the RatedPeople.com app.

A TERRIBLE INCIDENT IN 1996 MADE ME RETHINK MY CAREER ENTIRELY
FIONA FULLERTON

Fiona with Roger Moore in *A View To A Kill*, 1985

