

WHAT'S ON AND WEATHER FORECAST: SEE INSIDE TODAY

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Daniel Craig still first choice for James Bond, says producer

London.—The team behind the James Bond films wants Daniel Craig to return as 007, the spy series' executive producer said yesterday, even after the British actor said he would rather slash his wrists than appear again.

The 48-year-old star was "absolutely the first choice ... We would love Daniel to return as Bond," Callum McDougall told BBC radio.

Craig said last year he was "over" the role after filming wrapped up on the last instalment "Spectre", which went on to gross \$880 million worldwide.

When asked if he could imagine doing another Bond movie, Craig told London's *Time Out* magazine: "Now? I'd rather break this glass and slash my wrists."

His words triggered a flurry of speculation over who might appear next, with Idris Elba, Tom Hiddleston and Aidan Turner among the top contenders.

Craig was widely praised for bringing a fresh grittiness to the role of the suave secret agent over four films, starting with *Casino Royale* in 2006.

A report by *RadarOnline* earlier this month said Craig had already been offered \$150 million by studio Sony to return for two more films.

McDougall told the BBC that Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson both shared his views. "I know they are hoping for him to come back," he said.

British tourism reigns supreme in Balearics

- Thirty percent of all tourists to the Balearics in August were British with the Germans (29.5 percent) in second place, according to new report.
- See Page Three Inside Today.



- Coffee for a good cause in Majorca. See Pages 13 and 14 Inside Today.

Catalan separatists win confidence vote

Barcelona.— Catalonia's pro-independence government won a confidence vote on Thursday night that it hopes will spur support for its attempts to split from Spain at a time of disarray in national politics.

Triggered by squabbling among separatist factions which hold power in Catalonia's regional assembly, the 72-63 win in the vote served as a show of unity as local leaders try to push ahead with secession plans.

The wealthy north-eastern region's premier, Carles

Puigdemont, has said a victory in the vote would accelerate his government's proposals to construct an independent Catalan state, with or without Spain's consent.

Puigdemont told the Catalan parliament on Wednesday that he was willing to discuss the terms of a referendum on independence with Madrid, which has steadfastly opposed it, but that otherwise he would hold one next September regardless.

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