# Press Information from Universal an MCA company

# JAWS





#### MOTION PICTURE NEWS -

April 10, 1979

UNIVERSAL CITY, CALIFORNIA 91608 PHONE: (213) 985-4321

## "JAWS"

# (Production Notes)

There has never been a movie--or a phenomenon--like "Jaws."

From the day it was released--opening to exceptional reviews-it was a box office blockbuster. The Zanuck/Brown Production for
Universal shot to the top of the list of the highest grossing
films of all time. It has remained in that position, stepping
down one notch only for "Star Wars."

"Jaws" is the film everybody talked about, and more importantly, the film everybody went to see. It inspired other films ("Tentacles," "Orca," "Piranha," etc.). There was a rash of newspaper and magazine articles, numerous one-shot periodicals, hardcover and paperback books, and television specials, as well as Carl Gottlieb's "The Jaws Log," which detailed the making of the film. Because of "Jaws," the public's fascination with sharks spread into the remotest areas.

The theme music for "Jaws" is instantly recognizable to people all over the world. The logo for the film's ads--a shark moving out of the ocean depths to a lone swimmer on the water's surface--inspired thousands of political cartoons. "Jaws" was responsible for an hilarious running gag for Chevy Chase on

the popular "Saturday Night Live" TV show, and producer-director Blake Edwards had a pink shark pursuing the Pink Panther at the conclusion of "The Pink Panther Strikes Again."

When Zanuck/Brown produced the sequel--"Jaws 2,"--it went on to become one of the largest grossing films in history, and is--bar none--the most successful sequel ever made.

And now, "Jaws" is back.

One of the most technically difficult films ever attempted,
"Jaws" was personally produced by Richard D. Zanuck and David
Brown, whose presentation of "The Sting" the previous year (1974)
had won the Academy Award as Best Picture of the Year.

"Jaws" itself won three Academy Awards out of the four nominations it received.

Steven Spielberg, who earlier had received much attention for his direction of the Zanuck/Brown production "The Sugarland Express," directed "Jaws" and then went on to another blockbuster "Close Encounters Of The Third Kind."

The stars of the film are Roy Scheider, the late Robert Shaw, and Richard Dreyfuss as three men of opposite sensibilities who become allied in a life-and-death hunt to destroy a killer embodying nearly three tons of instant white death.

Co-starred in "Jaws" are Lorraine Gary, in the role of Scheider's loving and supportive wife (this marked her film debut), Murray Hamilton as the town's mayor, and Carl Gottlieb (the screenwriter), Jeffrey C. Kramer, and Susan Backlinie.

Peter Benchley, whose novel was a best seller in the hard cover edition for 44 weeks and became a phenomenon of the

publishing industry as a Bantam paperback, wrote the screenplay with Carl Gottlieb. Benchley plays a cameo role in the film as an interviewer.

"Jaws" was the eighth motion picture on the ambitious production slate of the Zanuck/Brown Company in an association with Universal that began in 1971. It earned Zanuck and Brown the Producers of the Year Award from the National Association of Theatre Owners and the annual Motion Picture Showman of the Year Award from the Publicists Guild of America. The aforementioned four nominations—including one for Best Picture—from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; was voted Favorite Movie of 1975 in the People's Choice Awards; received seven nominations from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts; and was named one of the best pictures of the year by top film critics throughout the country in their annual choices.

Following "Jaws," Zanuck/Brown produced "MacArthur," which brought new honors to Gregory Peck, and then the enormously successful "Jaws 2." In 1979, Zanuck and Brown will produce "The Island" to be directed by Michael Ritchie from the novel by Peter Benchley. In view of the earlier Zanuck/Brown and Benchley collaboration, the new project is much-awaited by the industry and public alike.

Richard D. Zanuck began his film career during school summer vacations, working on the labor gang at 20th Century-Fox Studios, later moving on to assignments in film editing and other branches of studio operation. He worked as a production assistant

on "Island In The Sun" and "The Sun Also Rises." His first personal production—at age 24—was the highly acclaimed "Compulsion," which won Best Actor Awards for its three male stars at the Cannes Film Festival. During his tenure as executive vice president in charge of production, and later president, at 20th Century—Fox, the studio produced "The Sound Of Music," "Patton," and "The French Connection," all winners of the Academy Award for Best Picture. Other box—office hits made under his administration include "M\*A\*S\*H," "Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid," the "Planet Of The Apes" film series and many other films.

David Brown, who joined 20th Century-Fox in 1952 as Darryl F. Zanuck's chief story editor and went on to hold a variety of other executive positions in the company, including vice president and director of story operations and executive vice president in charge of creative affairs. He began his career in journalism, writing for the San Francisco News, the Wall Street Journal, Fairchild Publications and Street and Smith Publications. Brown later served as editor-in-chief of Liberty Magazine and managing editor of Cosmopolitan, of which his wife, Helen Gurley Brown, is presently the editor. Active in the American Film Institute, he's a member of its board of trustees and executive committee.

Zanuck and Brown had given young Steven Spielberg his first crack at directing a theatrical feature with "The Sugarland Express" (a Cannes Film Festival Award winner for Best Screenplay), and then when he was 26, they gave him his second with "Jaws."

The talented Spielberg took on one of the most complex film

assignments in many years, with technical challenges and technical problems that would have staggered an assortment of veteran directors.

His third film was "Close Encounters Of The Third Kind," for which he received an Academy Award nomination as Best Director. That science fiction classic, along with "Jaws," is (according to <u>Variety</u>) among the top ten box office champs of all time. Spielberg is the only director to have two films on the list. He is presently filming a large scale, epic comedy adventure—"1941," starring Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, and an all-star cast—for Universal Pictures and Columbia Pictures.

Spielberg recently produced "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" and also shot additional footage for "Close Encounters Of The Third Kind" which will be incorporated into the film for its upcoming rerelease.

Roy Scheider, starred as Amity's police chief, new to the mores of a resort town, won an Oscar nomination for his performance in "The French Connection," and became a star with his performances in "Marathon Man," "Sorcerer," and "The Seven Ups." He is soon to be seen in Jonathan Demme's Hitchcock-styled thriller "Last Embrace."

The role of Quint, the colorful shark fisherman with a touch of the manic, marked the late British actor Robert Shaw's third successive film characterization as an American, following his Chicago gangster in "The Sting," and his New York criminal in "The Taking Of Pelham One, Two, Three." He received an Academy Award nomination for his performance in "A Man For All Seasons."

Shaw had also been a gifted novelist and playwright, with "The Man In The Glass Booth" probably his best known work. His last film is the upcoming Mark Robson's "Avalanche Express" co-starring Lee Marvin.

Richard Dreyfuss, almost unrecognizable as the bearded young ichthyologist Matt Hooper, took a giant step toward stardom in "American Graffiti," achieved it in "Jaws," and capped it with an Oscar for his work in "The Goodbye Girl." Dreyfuss was reunited with Steven Spielberg on "Close Encounters Of The Third Kind."

Last year, Dreyfuss--with his long-time friend and colleague Carl Borack--co-produced "The Big Fix," for Universal, and also starred in it.

Lorraine Gary plays Ellen Brody, the police chief's wife.

She's no stranger to television viewers having guest-starred in more than 40 series episodes, among them "Ironside" and "Kojak."

Following "Jaws," she had an hilarious role in "Car Wash," turned serious for "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden," then did "Jaws 2."

She recently completed "Just You And Me, Kid" and is presently appearing in Spielberg's "1941."

Veteran performer Murray Hamilton has rarely not worked at his chosen profession since he created the role of Ensign Pulver on Broadway in "Mr. Roberts." He repeated the role of Larry Vaughn, Amity's mayor, in "Jaws 2." Among his many film credits are "The Way We Were," "The Graduate," and a reunion with Spielberg, and Ms. Gary in "1941."

The music for "Jaws" was written by the prolific John Williams, who won an Oscar for his work on the film, and another for his

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"Star Wars" music. Earlier, he won one for scoring "Fiddler On The Roof." To date, he's received eight nominations, including one for "Superman."

Zanuck and Brown acquired the movie rights to "Jaws" when it was still in galleys. Their first choice for director was Spielberg. One of the young director's first acts was to take scuba diving lessons in preparation for filming on the briny. He also conferred with marine biologists on the Great White Shark species, the most formidable animal in the world—a prehistoric eating machine that has remained unchanged over a period of 30 million years, is reported to reach a length of 36 feet, and at death mysteriously sinks to the ocean bottom.

Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, the largest island in New England and, like the fictitious Amity, a mecca for summer tourists, was selected as the location for "Jaws" for the quaint ambiance of such towns as Edgartown, Menemsha, Gay Head, East Chop, and Squibnocket.

Pre-filming started in February 1974 in the waters off the South coast of Australia with Ron and Valerie Taylor, who photographed "Blue Water, White Death," Peter Gimbel's definitive film documentary on sharks, obtaining rare live shark footage to fit the story line. One of the Great White Sharks they photographed attacked the camera boat.

On May 2, principal photography in Technicolor and Panavision began at Martha's Vineyard, with Spielberg directing from a screen-play that heightened adventure content, strengthened the character colorations of Brody, Quint and Hooper, and jettisoned non-essential relationships.

Principal photography began with Richard D. Zanuck and David Brown on tap for the first shot and rarely absent from the set thereafter. Bill Butler was the cinematographer.

Staff and crew members included film editor Verna Fields (who won an Oscar for "Jaws"); Joseph Alves, Jr., responsible for the striking production design; Robert A. Mattey, who had started on the concept of his astonishing special effects almost a year before; and sound specialists John R. Carter and Robert Hoyt (who along with Roger Heman and Earl Madery won an Oscar for their work on "Jaws").

A Novi-type wooden swordfish fishing vessel was purchased and revamped with a flying bridge to double as The Orca, Quint's vintage fishing boat. A partial duplicate was later fashioned of fiberglass from a mold of the ship's hull for the scenes in which The Orca sinks under pummelling attacks by the crazed Great White Shark.

From the first day of shooting, monumental challenges were faced by the company, least of all being the changeable weather. Sea sequences for a major motion picture were being photographed against a real horizon, on a real boat. At one point, The Orca sank with all three stars aboard. More than once, with the camera ready to roll, heavy fog would surge in or sailing boats would unexpectedly appear in the distance. Weeks stretched into months as Zanuck, Brown and Spielberg secured their footage. Company members, the majority of them away from homes and families for far longer then they expected, took their patience and stoicism from director Spielberg, as unruffled as a venerable guru atop a mountain peak.

Richard D. Zanuck and David Brown acknowledge the cooperation of the National Geographic Society and L.J.V. Compagno, of Stanford University's Department of Biological Sciences, in the production of "Jaws."

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UNIVERSAL AN MCA COMPANY

Presents

A ZANUCK/BROWN PRODUCTION

ROY SCHEIDER ROBERT SHAW

RICHARD DREYFUSS

in

"JAWS"

Co-Starring

LORRAINE GARY

MURRAY HAMILTON

CARL GOTTLIEB

JEFFREY C. KRAMER

SUSAN BACKLINIE

Produced by RICHARD D. ZANUCK and DAVID BROWN

Directed by STEVEN SPIELBERG

Screenplay by PETER BENCHLEY and CARL GOTTLIEB

Based Upon The Novel by PETER BENCHLEY

TECHNICOLOR

PANAVISION

(#07912)

# THE CAST

Brody. ROY SCHEIDER Quint. ROBERT SHAW Hooper. RICHARD DREYFUSS Ellen Brody. LORRAINE GARY Vaughn. MURRAY HAMILTON Meadows. CARL GOTTLIEB Hendricks. JEFFREY C. KRAMER Chrissie. SUSAN BACKLINIE Cassidy. JONATHAN FILLEY Estuary Victim. TED GROSSMAN Michael Brody. CHRIS REBELLO Sean Brody. JAY MELLO Mrs. Kintner LEE FIERRO Alex Kintner JEFFREY VOORHEES Ben Gardner CRAIG KINGSBURY Medical Examiner DR. ROBERT NEVIN
Ben GardnerCRAIG KINGSBURYMedical ExaminerDR. ROBERT NEVINInterviewerPETER BENCHLEY

# THE CREDITS

Produced by
DAVID BROWN Directed by STEVEN SPIELBERG Screenplay by PETER BENCHLEY and CARL GOTTLIEB
Based On The Novel by PETER BENCHLEY
Production Executive
Camera Operator. MICHAEL CHAPMAN Script Supervisor CHARLSIE BRYANT Location Casting SHARI RHODES Technical Advisor MANFRED ZENDAR Unit Production Manager JIM FARGO First Assistant Director TOM JOYNER

# THE CREDITS (Cont'd.)

The producers gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY and

MR. L.J.V. COMPAGNO

THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Running Time: 124 Minutes

MPAA Rating: PG

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#### "JAWS"

(Synopsis)

(Not For Publication)

A balmy night late in June....

A group of some twenty college-age voungsters encircle a small bonfire which illuminates the night on the beach of Amity, a small East Coast resort community. For the most part, the beach party is over and the festivities have settled down to the drinking of beer and wine, guitar playing and, in some cases, subdued romance.

Sitting off to the side is Chrissie (SUSAN BACKLINIE), obviously not a regular member of the party group. Watching her intently a few yards away is Tom Cassidy (JONATHAN FILLEY), a blond beach boy type who's had a few too many beers.

As he moves toward her, Chrissie jumps up and runs the length of the beach, throwing off her clothes as she nears the warm ocean waters. Tom, staggering, falls behind.

Soon Chrissie is swimming well off shore, her naked body glistening in the moonlight. There's a tug at her leg and she giggles, thinking Tom has finally caught up with her. Suddenly there's a huge water bulge next to her. Something bumps her upright out of the sea. Then, frozen with terror, she's jolted, slammed, whipped in an arc, and sucked below the water's surface. Nothing remains but a few eddies and ocean swirls.

It's the next morning and Amity's police chief Martin Brody (ROY SCHEIDER), a former New York policeman, is just getting up. His wife Ellen (LORRAINE GARY) lies awake in bed as he dresses. The Brody family, which also includes 10-year-old Michael (CHRISTOPHER RFBELLO) and five-year-old Sean (JAY MELLO), is spending its first summer in Amity.

The phone rings and Brody is informed that a drowning has been reported. He drives to the beach and meets young Cassidy, who relates the events of the night before. Police officer

Lenny Hendricks (JEFFREY C. KRAMER) is searching the shore about 100 yards away. Suddenly Brody hears Hendricks' shrill police whistle. He rushes to him and looks down at the horribly mutilated remains of Chrissie.

Returning to his office, Brody is met by his secretary Polly (PEGGY SCOTT), a 61-year-old efficiency machine. As she rattles off the agenda for the new day, he fills out an accident report, leaving the cause-of-death space blank. When the coroner phones, Brody fills in the empty space on the form before him: "Shark attack."

Deputy Hendricks carrying several wooden signs reading "Beach Closed" comes upon a group which includes Larry Vaughn (MURRAY HAMILTON), a prominent realtor and Mayor of Amity, and Ben Meadows (CARL GOTTLIEP), editor of the Amity Gazette. When they hear Brody is going to close the beach, they rush off to talk to him.

The major is furious when he confronts Brody, arguing that the beach can't be closed with the Fourth of July weekend coming up. Amity relies on the summer tourist business for its survival and a shark scare could wipe them all out. Besides, he rationalizes, it might have been a motorboat propeller, not a shark, that killed Chrissie. Vaughn finally insinuates to Brody that they will have to replace him if he can't see things the town's way.

Brody, spending Sunday on the beach with his wife and sons, is nervous and wary. His worst fears are realized when a young boy, swimming beyond the line of bathers, is attacked and killed, disappearing in a welter of bloody froth.

The following day, Mrs. Kintner (LEE FIERRO), the dead boy's mother, posts a bounty of \$3,000 for the capture of the killer shark. The question of closing the beach is the main topic at a jam-packed meeting of Amity's Selectmen's Council. From the back of the room, Quint (ROBERT SHAW), a rough, tough rogue fisherman, offers to catch the shark for \$3,000 and to kill him for \$10,000. He is told that his offer will be taken under advisement.

The Amity harbor is a mass of boats, humanity and confusion as hundreds of would-be shark killers go out in every type of boat imaginable, carrying every conceivable kind of weapon. At the same time a small launch arrives at the dock, piloted by Matt Hooper (RICHARD DREYFUSS), a young, intent ichthyologist from a nearby oceanographic institute. The frenzied scene before him is explained by Ben Gardner (CRAIG KINGSBURY), a legitimate fishing boat skipper who's also joining the hunt but in a more orthodox manner.

com rage

Hooper goes ashore, introduces himself to Brody, and volunteers to help. Viewing Chrissie's remains, he opines that she was killed by a shark--a huge one.

Later, the armada of bounty-hunting fishermen returns with a 12-foot, 800-pound tiger shark, which everyone readily accepts as the killer. Brody and Hooper aren't convinced. For one thing, the ichthyologist feels the bite radius is too small. To confirm his suspicions, he and Brody go to the boat shed and cut open the tiger shark's stomach. They find no human remains.

Another victim of the ocean-going monster is discovered the following day.

At dawn, Brody and Hooper searching the waters off Amity Beach, come across Ben Gardner's boat, half sunken, battered and drifting aimlessly. Hooper dons his scuba gear, boards the derelict and goes below, plunging into the water-filled hold. He digs a huge shark's tooth out of a spot where the hull was ripped away. As he starts to take it topside, he spots Gardner's dead face staring at him through the hole, eyes and mouth gaping in frozen horror. Startled, he bumps his head and loses the tooth in the murky depths below. Returning to the surface, he shouts to Brody that the lost tooth came from a Great White Shark.

Back in Amity, they relate their discovery to Mayor Vaughn, who refuses to accept the story—especially without proof. The tiger shark was the killer as far as he's concerned; tomorrow is July 4th, and the beach will remain open.

The holiday is another day of terror.

The beach is jammed and Brody has taken the only option left to him. Spotters and observers are posted on all the lifeguard stands. Small boats, each filled with more observers and rifle-bearing deputies, stretch the length of the beach between the frolicking swimmers and the open ocean. A television newscaster (PETER BENCHLEY), having learned of the shark scare, has brought his crew to the beach to interview the mayor, Hooper, residents and members of the summer colony.

A helicopter scouts the area from above. Suddenly it detects a shadow near one of the boats on the picket line and radios a warning. A dorsal fin is spotted from aboard the small craft and the cry goes out--"Shark!"

The panic is on as hundreds of screaming, hysterical swimmers scramble to get ashore. It's an unbelievable scene of people clawing and trampling each other in their flight for survival.

Land mand

The picket boats converge on the ominous black fin, rifles at the ready. Suddenly the fin bobs back, revealing a beaverboard replica attached to a partially submerged surfboard. Two snorkel-outfitted youngsters rise to the surface, frightened at the hysteria caused by their prank.

Another black fin cruises through a narrow estuary that widens into a busy pond about 200 yards away. Hooper, who's on one of the picket boats, heads toward it at full throttle, frantically radioing the others.

In the pond, Michael Brody and some of his young friends are sailing in a small boat, one of several in the area. The fin heads towards Michael's boat when one of the other dinghys crosses its path. The dinghy is bumped, overturned; its occupant (TED GROSSMAN) falls into the sea and is attacked. Michael and his friend watch in horror as the spot where the man was last seen turns into a bloody mire. The experience throws Michael into shock and he is taken to the hospital.

The tragedy establishes beyond doubt that the killer is a Great White Shark and that people will continue to die unless it is destroyed. A guilt-ridden Vaughn authorizes Brody and Hooper to hire Quint at his quoted fee to end the deaths. Although Brody is afraid of the ocean, his deep sense of responsibility prompts him to accompany Quint and Hooper aboard the shark hunter's vintage fishing boat, the Orca.

What follows in the next 18 hours is one of the most harrowing hunts ever conducted. The three men have to resolve whatever differences they may have among themselves if they're to survive the battle with the fiercest adversary any of them had ever encountered—a 25-foot, three—ton Great White Shark! Alone, far out at sea, with no other ships within miles, the three men come to grips with their quarry, but the shark launches a counterattack against his pursuers. The hunters become the hunted.

It narrows down to a battle for survival between the men and the shark....

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Ellen Brody (LORRAINE GARY) pleads with her husband, Chief of Police Brody (ROY SCHEIDER), to close Amity Beach to summer tourists.

"Jaws," a Zanuck/Brown Production for Universal, stars Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw and Richard Dreyfuss. The screen version of Peter Benchley's international best seller was produced by Richard D. Zanuck and David Brown, directed by Steven Spielberg in Technicolor and Panavision, and written as a screenplay by Peter Benchley and Carl Gottlieb. Co-starred are Lorraine Gary, Murray Hamilton, Carl Gottlieb, Jeffrey C. Kramer and Susan Backlinie.



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Cold and wet, three men determined to destroy a killer shark -- from left, Chief of Police Brody (ROY SCHEIDER), Quint (ROBERT SHAW) and Matt Hooper (RICHARD DREYFUSS) --- gaze out to the sea for a sight of their quarry.

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