

moviereview

BY JAY BOBBIN

Nearing 50 years old, ‘Jaws’ retains its bite

Especially appropriate viewing during the summer, a certain movie still generates immediate fear of going in the water.

It’s not hard to guess the film in question is “Jaws,” whose monstrous success put director Steven Spielberg on the map. AMC shows the 1975 classic Friday, July 29, and Saturday, July 30 (with the first two sequels also running there this month). The picture’s legendary production problems, which included a malfunctioning mechanical “shark,” provide a lesson in how the result still can succeed.

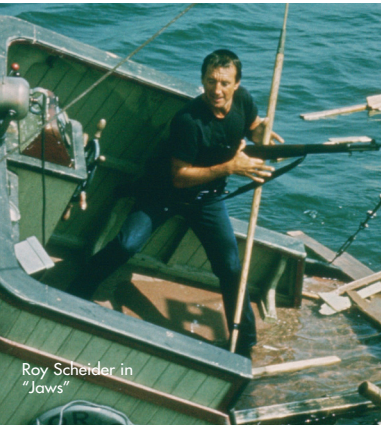
In the adaptation of Peter Benchley’s bestseller, the gruesome death of a moonlight swimmer causes concern among residents and officials of tourist-supported Amity Island. Eventually, the sheriff, a shark expert and a local shark hunter (played by the ideal trio of Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss and Robert Shaw) join forces to go to sea to find and eliminate the recurring threat.

The pursuit is thrilling and involving, backed by a brilliant John Williams score that incorporates one of the most famous musical themes in screen history. However, what really sells “Jaws” is the creative approach by Spielberg, who has admitted that he thought he’d be fired by producers Richard D. Zanuck and David Brown (or the studio, Universal, which scored one of the biggest hits in screen history by sticking with him) at any of numerous points during the location filming in New England.

One of Spielberg’s smartest decisions was to not play his hand too early in showing the shark, letting the audience’s imagination do much of the work for him. When the ever-hungry villain finally does appear, it’s a surprise of the sort that prompted many moviegoers to scream, all the more loudly because Spielberg knowingly had lulled them into a comfort zone by that moment.

Other cast notables include Lorraine Gary as the sheriff’s wife and Murray Hamilton as Amity Island’s mayor, who would prefer to keep the site open for profit rather than acknowledge that there might be a potentially deadly problem swimming nearby. The casting of Scheider, Shaw and Dreyfuss is ideal, though; Shaw’s Quint is particularly colorful, and it elevated the actor’s stardom to new heights internationally in what sadly ended up being one of his final projects (he died in 1978).

For nearly 50 years, “Jaws” has held up superbly, raising the hair on the heads of newcomers as well as returning viewers. And you can pretty much bank on that continuing to be the case for the next 50 years ... and beyond.



RICHARD DREYFUSS' TOP 10 MOVIES BY JAY BOBBIN

- “Mr. Holland’s Opus” (1995): The title music teacher, who’s determined to create a timeless composition, is among Dreyfuss’ signature roles.
- “Once Around” (1991): Dreyfuss effectively has his “brash” quotient set on “high” as a salesman who irritates the close family of his new love (Holly Hunter).
- “Stakeout” (1987): In the same year Mel Gibson and Danny Glover scored buddy-cop success in “Lethal Weapon,” Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez also did here.
- “Stand by Me” (1986): Largely in a prolonged-flashback voiceover, Dreyfuss adds much to the Rob Reiner-directed Stephen King story of an adventure among boyhood pals.
- “The Big Fix” (1978): Some of Dreyfuss’ best moments in this light mystery, about a radical turned detective, are quiet ones as the character tearfully watches home movies of his past.
- “The Goodbye Girl” (1977): Oscar came calling for Dreyfuss for his work as a struggling actor sharing an apartment with its existing tenant (Marsha Mason, then-wife of the tale’s writer, Neil Simon).
- “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” (1977): Dreyfuss reteamed with director Steven Spielberg, with mashed potatoes and aliens thrown in for good measure, in this sci-fi classic.
- “Jaws” (1975): Stardom was cemented for Dreyfuss in the role of shark expert Matt Hooper, who knew enough to be scared at the right moments, in the blockbuster that also established Spielberg’s career.
- “The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz” (1974): The title role of a Montreal hustler gave Dreyfuss another significant step toward lasting recognition and fame.
- “American Graffiti” (1973): As Curt, the member of a group of early ‘60s high-school pals who seemed most likely to succeed despite himself, Dreyfuss had the perfect role for his wit and energy.



CENTRAL OREGON HOMES & BUSINESS

Get your copy in The Bulletin on the second Saturday each month!

SHOWCASING HOMES, LAND, AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE IN CENTRAL OREGON

- Reach local consumers with discretionary income with an advertisement in Central Oregon Homes & Business.
- Publishing the second Saturday of the month with the Real Estate section.
- Over 2300 additional copies distributed throughout Central Oregon.
- Put your listing in front of those buying or selling homes.
- Showcase your home on the front of Central Oregon Homes & Business.

CALL DEBBIE COFFMAN AT 541-383-0384



The Bulletin EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

WORD SEARCH

Solution on page 18

In the grid below, twenty answers can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each answer that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Answers can be found in all directions—forward, backward, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find the twenty answers in today’s puzzle?

Today’s Category: Items Found in a Refrigerator

F	I	S	H	P	B	O	L	O	G	N	A
S	H	K	S	A	U	S	A	G	E	M	K
D	N	O	C	A	B	B	K	K	U	G	H
P	G	L	T	A	E	M	E	S	G	H	J
U	H	L	K	D	I	D	T	E	H	R	L
D	C	E	E	H	O	A	H	K	R	E	C
D	C	J	G	Y	R	G	J	H	T	T	G
I	O	G	G	D	O	K	S	T	M	T	E
N	L	H	S	C	S	G	U	S	I	U	C
G	A	M	A	E	R	C	U	G	L	B	I
C	H	E	E	S	E	K	G	R	K	K	U
K	E	T	C	H	U	P	H	C	T	H	J

1. Cheese

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.