

## Film Review

### JAWS

12 | 1975 | 124 Mins | Film

**Director:** Steven Spielberg

**Story:** Peter Benchley + 2 others

**Editor:** Verna Fields

### Synopsis

When a gigantic great white shark begins to menace the small island community of Amity, the new police chief, a marine scientist and a local eccentric fisherman set out to stop it.

### You need

Access to film Online or on DVD.

\*We always recommend watching films on the largest screen possible with quality speakers.

DVD and BluRays also tend to offer great resources such as Director commentary and featurettes about the making of the film which we always recommend..



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### Background

Spielberg's establishing master piece was plagued with problems and in particular a mechanical shark that refused to perform. The limited shots of the shark led the director to use the camera to make suggestions of the shark and ultimately made the film the power house it is.

### Watch out for

- Girl in the water (00:03:15)  
Under water shots and a violent attack establish Jaws from the outset of the film.
- Shark attack on beach (00:16:00)  
Shark attack is in almost silence followed by the now infamous Dolly Zoom on chief Brody.
- Shark becomes closer to Brody (00:59:00)  
The first glimpse of the shark under water and Brody's sons close call with death, reinforcing Brody's need to deal with the shark.
- Face to face (01:17:40)  
Funny and drama meet when the 'chum' works well . "You're gonna need a bigger boat."
- USS Indianapolis (01:25:00)  
Bonding scene of the 3 main characters with Robert Shaw delivering an unforgettable, uninterrupted 3 minute scene.

### Take from the film...

#### Score

- ✓ Perhaps the greatest music to instil tension and fear!

#### Characters

- ✓ Its a film about 3 men and a town, not a shark.

#### Filming

- ✓ Spielberg's lack of shark footage led to some of cinemas most tension filled scenes ever. Work with your limits and use them to your advantage.

### Try...

Use the power of suggestion and tension to make up for the lack of supporting special effects. The mind is more scary than special effects!