



LOUISE SWIDER

'Jaws 2' here just in time for summer swim

You don't tamper with success, so if you want a big summer movie like "Jaws," then do the same thing over again and call it "Jaws 2" (PG).

Well, almost the same thing. Richard Dreyfuss and Robert Shaw who added so much lustre to the original movie are conspicuously absent. Of course, Shaw couldn't reasonably resume his role because he was filled by Bruce, the shark in "Jaws."

Dreyfuss, as the marine biologist, would have added some color and humor, but that's wishful thinking, I guess.

So much for what might have been. As for what is, a recap of the first movie, the teenage movie crowd seemed more than satisfied with what they got.

ROY SCHEIDER and Lorraine Gary are back as Police Chief Brody and his wife. Murray Hamilton and Jeffrey Kramer also repeat their roles as the mayor and police deputy, respectively. Bruce was sent to Davy Jones' locker, but his replacement is more than adequate. Another great white shark has appeared off the coast of the little New England town of Amity and started it on the way toward Zero Population Growth.

Once again we have the familiar lineup of heroes and villains: Brody versus the mayor and town council and people versus the shark. Brody is a nervous Nellie who sees a shark lurking under every wave. The town fathers want to know nothing about sharks. They're interested in promoting the tourist trade, not destroying it.

One new complication has been added (which for some unknown reason is never pursued beyond its introduction). Brody's wife handles public relations for an important real estate developer in Amity. He's trying to attract summer residents to his new condominium complex, and sharks aren't the proper bait for the job.

WHEN BRODY starts "upsetting" everyone with his wild talk about sharks, he gets fired. Meanwhile, the great white is devouring every nubile young body in sight—not to mention boats, motors, and other trifles.

Tension mounts when a flotilla of sailboats with Brody's two sons and every teenager of consequence embark on a morning sail. They are attacked and some of them gobbled by the great white.

"Jaws 2" does have its scream and clutch moments. However, the mechanical shark alone couldn't generate them. His man-made hulk and glassy eye look comically unconvincing whenever he surfaces to wolf down a tender teen (if a shark can be said to wolf down).

John Williams' musical score and some excellent underwater photography contribute heavily toward creating the sense of menace and terror.

It's corny and familiar, but familiar or not, "Jaws 2" scares, as the shrieks and gasps of the audience attest.



Roy Scheider (right) tries to convince town mayor Murray Hamilton (center) and the rest of the city's governing selectmen that there's another killer shark menacing the area.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

BAD NEWS BEARS GO TO JAPAN (PG). Scrappy action with the Bears, their scheming agent Tony Curtis and a Japanese wrestler, not to mention the ball game.

CAPRICORN ONE (PG). Hoax about a space shot is the gimmick in this flick with lots of action and lots of loopholes.

THE CHEAP DETECTIVE (PG). Peter Falk and terrific cast click in Neil Simon's comical take off on the Bogart movies of the '40s.

COVING HOME (R). Powerful story of Vietnam era with Jane Fonda as officer's wife who falls in love with disabled vet (Jon Voight).

CONVOY (PG). Kris Kristoferson leads convoy of angry truckers in movie expanded from hit record.

DAMNED: OMEN II (R). The nasty kid from "The Omen" is now 13 and he's back to kill more people as the world heads for Armageddon.

THE END (R). Black comedy about misadventures of an about-to-die guy. Burt Reynolds and Dom DeLuise star.

F.I.S.T. (PG). Sylvester Stallone as union organizer in film that spans decades from early struggle and idealism to national strength and corruption.

GREASE (PG). Broadway musical about the funky '50s is translated to film with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

HARPER VALLEY PTA (PG). You heard the song (in the '60s), now see the movie as Barbara Eden and Nanette Fabray thump the hypocrites.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT (PG). Warren Beatty's successful and distinctive remake of humorous fantasy, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan." Football player goes to heaven and returns to earth as business tycoon. Fine performances.

JAWS 2 (PG). Unimaginative recap of original "Jaws" as another shark with a case of overbite and a taste for teens terrorizes beach resort.

MADAME ROSA (PG). Tender story of old Jewish woman (Simone Signoret) who raises Arab boy. Won Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. English subtitles.

THE MAN WHO LOVED WOMEN (R). Francois Truffaut's amusing and charming story of a womanizer.

MATILDA (G). Kangaroo becomes professional boxer and pockets the cash.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER (R). John Travolta (of Kottler's sweat-hog) is the main man in film with plenty of disco action.

AN UNMARRIED WOMAN (R). Jill Clayburgh in top form as woman who picks up the pieces after her husband leaves her, then finds there's more to life than Scotch tape. Written and directed by Paul Mazursky.



Pearl's Garden

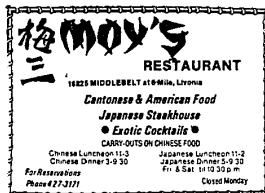
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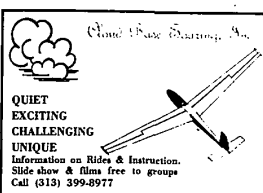
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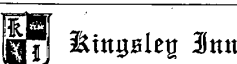
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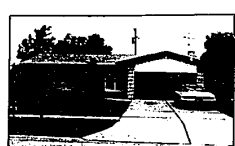
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