

Jaws



Main Facts

Year Made: 1975

Production Company:

Directed by: Steven Spielberg

Written by: Peter Benchley, Carl Gottlieb

Genre: [Adventure](#) | [Drama](#) | Thriller

Main Actors

1. Roy Scheider
2. Robert Shaw
3. Richard Dreyfuss

Major Plot Summary

It's a hot summer on Amity Island, a small community whose main business is its beaches. When new Sheriff Martin Brody discovers the remains of a shark attack victim, his first inclination is to close the beaches to swimmers. This doesn't sit well with Mayor Larry Vaughn and several of the local businessmen. Brody backs down to his regret as that weekend a young boy is killed by the predator. The dead boy's mother puts out a bounty on the shark and Amity is soon swamped with amateur hunters and fisherman hoping to cash in on the reward. A local fisherman with much experience hunting sharks, Quint, offers to hunt down the creature for a hefty fee. Soon Quint, Brody and Matt Hooper from the Oceanographic Institute are at sea hunting the Great White shark. As Brody succinctly surmises after their first encounter with the creature, they're going to need a bigger boat. *IMDB*

Financial Information

Budget: \$8,000,000 (estimated)

Money Made: **Opening Weekend USA:**

\$7,061,513, 22 June 1975, Limited Release

Gross USA:

\$260,000,000

Cumulative Worldwide Gross:

\$470,653,000

Special Costs: animatronic shark, on location shooting, delays

Major Quotes

Mayor Vaughn: *[to reporter]* I'm pleased and happy to repeat the news that we have, in fact, caught and killed a large predator that supposedly injured some bathers. But, as you see, it's a beautiful day, the beaches are open and people are having a wonderful time. Amity, as you know, means "friendship".

Hooper: I'm not going to waste my time arguing with a man who's lining up to be a hot lunch.

Brody: It doesn't make any sense when you pay a guy like you to watch sharks.

Hooper: Well, uh, it doesn't make much sense for a guy who hates the water to live on an island either.

Brody: It's only an island if you look at it from the water.

Hooper: That makes a lot of sense.

Hooper: This was no boat accident.

Brody: You're going to need a bigger boat

Historical Significance

America was afraid of Communism and the Soviet Union. There had been a series of shark attacks but ultimately it looked at the fear of what we cannot see.

It also was the first major summer blockbuster, changing how summer movies are produced. (wide releases with a lot of showings)

Filming Information

Filming Location: Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, USA (Amity Island), [Los Angeles, California, USA](#), [Dangerous Reef, South Australia, Australia](#)

Special advance made in film: Use of on the site filming.

Source Material: Based on novel of same way

Composition/Music

Compositions by John Williams

Won Academy Award

Show Me The Way To Go Home

(uncredited)

Written by [Irving King](#)

Performed by [Robert Shaw](#), [Roy Scheider](#) and [Richard Dreyfuss](#)

Spanish Ladies

(uncredited)

Traditional English shanty

Performed by [Robert Shaw](#)

Inane Trivia

Several decades after the release of Jaws (1975), [Lee Fierro](#), who played Mrs. Kintner, walked into a seafood restaurant and noticed that the menu had an "Alex Kintner Sandwich." She commented that she had played his mother so many years ago; the owner of the restaurant ran out to meet her, and he was none other than [Jeffrey Voorhees](#), who had played her son. They had not seen each other since the original movie shoot.

When composer [John Williams](#) originally played the score for director [Steven Spielberg](#), Spielberg laughed and said, "That's funny, John, really; but what did you really have in mind for the theme of [Jaws](#) (1975)?" Spielberg later stated that without Williams's score, the movie would only have been half as successful and according to Williams, it jump started his career.

[Robert Shaw](#) could not stand [Richard Dreyfuss](#) and the two argued all the time, which resulted in some good tension between Hooper and Quinn.

According to writer [Carl Gottlieb](#), the line, "You're gonna need a bigger boat," was not scripted, but was ad-libbed by [Roy Scheider](#).

The main reason the shark was barely seen was because it did not work often. Ended up increasing the suspense

Accolades/Recognition

Won

Oscar

Best Sound

[Robert L. Hoyt](#)

[Roger Heman Jr.](#)

[Earl Madery](#)

[John R. Carter](#)

Best Film Editing

[Verna Fields](#)

Best Music, Original Dramatic Score

[John Williams](#)