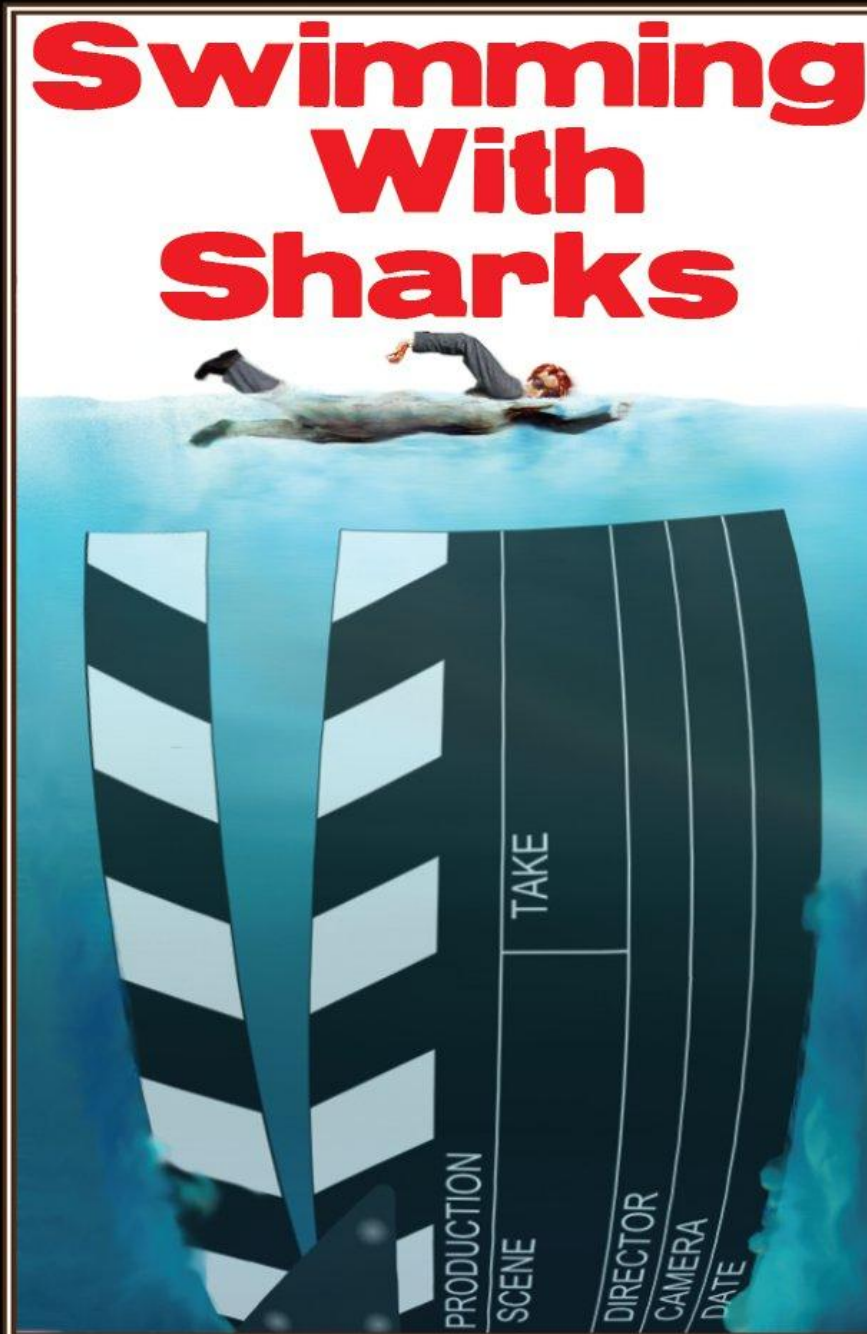


An
Old Town Theatre Company
Production

OTTC

A Play
directed by
Julian Smith



by George Huang, in a version by Michael Lesslie
In your new job for the movie boss from Hell,
you discover... **Hollywood Has Teeth**

7.30 pm

Thurs 9th to Sat 11th Sept 2010

£7.50 / £5 Concessions

Buy 8 Tickets At £7.50 – Get 2 Free

The Arts Centre

Devizes Road

Swindon

Box Office: 01793 614837

www.swindonweb.com/ottc

WARNING: Play contains loud noises and language some people may find offensive



Got your mobile 'phone with you?
Please take the time now to check it's off, or silent!
Thank you!



Past Productions

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| June 2010 | Ghosts |
| February 2010 | Knock and Wait |
| February 2010 | Invitation to a Party |
| December 2009 | Sweeney Todd |
| September 2009 | The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists |
| June 2009 | Best of British II |
| February 2009 | The Vortex |
| February 2009 | Nobody Knows I'm a Dog |

What the Papers Say about OTTC

"A haunting night";
"they held the audience's attention throughout.."
"..plenty of laughter..";
"If you like Carry-On films, you'll love this."
Winning Play,
Harold Jolliffe One Act Play Festival 2010
"Not for the faint hearted"; "..talented cast..";
"..every line was delivered naturally.."
"..a great performance by all,
with challenging and thought provoking issues."
"..an absolute joy; every actor giving it full welly..."
"It left me completely spellbound
and shedding a tear here and there..."
Runner Up,
Harold Jolliffe One Act Play Festival 2010

For a full list of OTTC's past production, please visit our extensive website at:
www.swindonweb.com/ottc

Come and see our next show!

The Elephant Man

by Bernard Pomerance

The story of John Merrick, rescued from his life as a freak attraction in traveling sideshows, he is educated and introduced to London society.

But although Merrick is changed from an object of pity to a favourite of high society, he is denied the chance to lead a normal life.

A touching story of our humanity within, brought to life on the Arts Centre stage.

7.30pm, Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th December 2010

Arts Centre, Devizes Road, Swindon

Tickets: £7.50 or £5 concessions. Buy 8 at £7.50 and get two free!

Box Office: 01793 614837

www.swindonweb.com/ottc

To win a pair of Opening Night tickets to our next show – just tell us what you think of this one!

Simply write your comments here, along with your name and email address*,
and post this slip in the Prize Draw Box in the entrance foyer.

Name:

Email Address:.....

Comments:
.....
.....

* OTTC will use this information to keep you updated of our forthcoming shows.

Swimming with Sharks

by George Huang, in a version by Michael Lesslie

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Rex , Buddy's old assistant | <i>Ryan Gilks</i> |
| Guy , Buddy's new assistant | <i>Cal Doughty</i> |
| Buddy Ackerman , Co-Senior Executive Vice President of Production, Keystone Pictures | <i>David Howell</i> |
| Mitzy , an aspiring model-cum actress | <i>Jodie Patchett</i> |
| Dawn Lockard , an independent producer working for Premium Productions at Keystone | <i>Laura Bowman</i> |
| Cyrus Miles , the founder and Chairman of Keystone Pictures | <i>Steve Wheeler</i> |
| Daniel Faruk , a fledgling movie director | <i>Rob Hall</i> |
| Jack , a film-school friend of Guy's | <i>Josh Foyster</i> |

CREW

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Lighting Technician | <i>Matt Davis</i> | Lighting Operator | <i>Janet Lovell</i> |
| Sound Design | <i>Julian Smith</i> | Sound Operator | <i>Nancy Heath</i> |
| Set Design & Build | <i>Lee Thompson</i> | Stage Manager | <i>Lee Thompson</i> |
| Asst. Stage Manager | <i>Sam Owen</i> | Stage Crew Member | <i>Simon Roberts</i> |
| Publicity Assistant | <i>Sally Hobbs</i> | Publicity Officer | <i>Ashley Heath</i> |
| Front of House Manager | <i>Jane Dale</i> | Armourer | <i>Peter Gale</i> |

Director *Julian Smith...*

"I first saw the original film version of *Swimming With Sharks* on its cinema release in the early 1990s. It had deliciously wicked dialogue, and a darkly vicious take on how Hollywood works that made much more sense to me than Robert Altman's *The Player*, which came out two years earlier and tended to overshadow what I thought was the better film. Later, I bought the DVD and enjoyed it several more times in the comfort of my own living room, savouring the salty dialogue and recognising Buddy Ackerman, every office worker's nightmare, in every boss who ever raised their voice at me or my colleagues.

When I heard that it had been adapted for the stage, I couldn't wait to see it. Christian Slater? Helen Baxendale? And some up-and-comer with the forgettable name 'Matt Smith' (now much less forgettable as a certain TV time traveller)? "Sign me up!", I thought, especially when I saw a copy of the play script in Waterstone's. Reading it, the changes necessary to make it work on stage turned it from a pleasingly savage little melodrama into a proper revenger's tragedy; an examination of the dark side of human nature with the potential to be as profound as anything else actors get to do on stage.

"To Hell with Christian Slater," I thought. "I want OTTC to do this".

We read the play one rainy summer evening, and my fellow OTTCers were as keen as I was to see the play performed. After a wait of a year or two for it to be made available for amateur performance, we were off and running.

In all of this, there are those I need to thank personally. Liz Howell, for moral and secretarial support. Sarah Dawson and Helen Pearson at St John Ambulance, for lending us makeup and showing us how to use it.

Captain Elliott at the Royal Yeomanry in Church Place for connecting us up with our Armourer.

All at OMG!, for making the cast look as though they might actually live in Southern California.

Simon Myers at Cursey Technology Ltd, for his skills with a soldering iron.

Our sponsors, for their continued help and support. The staff and volunteers at Lawn Community Centre.

Ashley Heath and, especially, Sally Hobbs, for their invaluable and tireless publicity work.

The OTTC committee, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Thanks to my cast and crew, who've been a joy to work with – enthusiastic, patient, good-humoured and a great reminder of just how much fun amateur theatre can and should be.

Oh, and Kevin Spacey, for making me like the film version so much in the first place!

I hope that you all enjoy *Swimming With Sharks* as much as we have enjoyed making it."

Julian Smith Director

The Company

Since Old Town Theatre Company was set up in 1992 we've added another dimension to Swindon's drama scene. Particularly focused on the works of contemporary playwrights, we aim to offer entertainment appealing to the more adventurous theatre-goer. This has established OTTC as one of Swindon's most ambitious and innovative theatre companies. This reputation has been built from the desire of the members to challenge themselves as performers, and from a common shared philosophy within the company to break down the barriers of what an 'amateur' company 'can' or 'should' perform.

How to Join OTTC

Our membership is open to all. If you are interested in acting, directing or backstage, you're very welcome!

As an OTTC member you will receive:

- Opportunities to audition for all OTTC productions
- OTTC newsletters
- Concessionary price tickets for OTTC productions

Yearly membership costs just £20 for adults and £10 for junior members under 18. However, you are welcome to make an additional donation! To help cover production costs, we ask cast members to pay an acting fee of £7.50 per play.

To find out more please write to us at:

Old Town Theatre Company, P O Box 594, Swindon SN1 3UQ.

Or visit our website and use the enquiry form there.

Friends of OTTC

As well as helping to support your local theatre, becoming a Friend of OTTC will also entitle you to concessionary rates to all our shows. The minimum subscription to be a Friend is £5 per year.

We're grateful to the Friends of OTTC for their support:

Brian Carter & SwindonWeb
Joan Cheshire

Laurence Chase
Mollie Tanner

Tony & Margaret Hyder
Janice Thompson

Jon Slade
Ross Nolan

The Website

Why not pay us a visit? Our extensive website is at www.swindonweb.com/ottc

Join Our E-Mailing List!

If you'd like to receive details of other OTTC shows, why not fill out the form on page 2 of this programme? We'll make sure you get to hear of our future shows, and you might win free tickets too!

'Thank you' to our supporters, be they big or small!



www.swindonweb.com



Call us on: 01793 51 11 51

www.anchorselfstorage.co.uk



158-159 Rodbourne Road
Swindon, SN2 2AY

01380 728362 www.sja.org.uk



Clarry Bean
and all the
Arts Centre Staff



7 Faringdon Road, Swindon,
SN1 5AR 01793 433433
www.omghairandbeauty.co.uk

A Squadron, Royal Yeomanry
TA Centre
Church Place
Swindon SN1 5EH
01793 523865
www.royalwiltshireyeomanry.co.uk



Manor Furnishing Centre
Cheney Manor
www.manorfurnishingcentre.co.uk



www.diy.com



www.intel.co.uk