

Dreyfuss and Shaw audition

(SFX: Loud sounds off-shark repair.)

SHAW. Good god, it's the last day and they're still hammering on that bloody thing.

DREYFUSS. Do you ever feel stupid?

SHAW. Do I ever feel stupid?

DREYFUSS. Doing this job, I mean, here we are, the shark is broken-again-it's fucked, and Steven is asking for all these reaction shots to a thing that doesn't even exist! It just feels so goddamn stupid! Like when you're a little kid and you run around the neighbourhood like Superman.

(He demonstrates Superman.)

I don't know ... it just feels so childish.

SHAW. At times, I've found myself utterly depressed with how ridiculous it all is, how seriously we all take ourselves; fame, adulation, money, agents, lawyers, producers, merchandising, it's all a crock of bullshit ...

DREYFUSS. So you do feel stupid?

SHAW. Of course I bloody do! All actors do ... You know, almost more than anything else I wish I'd been good enough to be a first- class rugby player. No matter what you do in the arts people can say they don't like it. They can say "Tolstoy is a second-rate novelist!" But when you score a try they can't take it away from you.

DREYFUSS. Do you think being an actor undermines your ...Masculinity?

SHAW. Oh fucking hell! Look, I'm not ... a therapist, Richard. Have another drink.

DREYFUSS. Richard Benjamin just said that acting was not a fit profession for a mature man! Hoffman calls it womanish. Like there's something shameful about it-

(SFX: Launch approaches.)

SHAW. Oh, for god's sake, Richard, stop listening to everybody else! Be fearless! Follow your own goddamn star!

(Shaw looks at Dreyfuss, a real attempt to get through to him.)

"The wind passeth over us, and when we are gone the earth shall know us no more"

DREYFUSS. Are you okay?

SHAW. Oh, fuck you, Richard!

