



## **Jake Revolver, Freelance Secret Agent came to Ockley.**

Jake Revolver is a Secret Agent. Private investigator won't do, it's passé, he says. In fact, he really thinks of himself as a Special Secret Agent.

In a break with tradition, Ockley Dramatic Society brought us something entirely different. Jake Revolver is a pastiche of the soap operas which began life on American radio in the 1930's and the name alluded to the soap manufacturers that most often sponsored these continuing dramas.

This production, which was performed on three evenings in the middle of June was part of the celebration of the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Imagine a set which represents a radio broadcasting studio in post second world war America, with a cast reading scripts for a radio programme portraying the actions of our hapless hero Jake Revolver. Jake leads a cast of supporting actors, particularly the narrator with whom he interacts. Emmy Award, Revolver's feisty secretary regularly interrupts them both. Suddenly the lights go down and a gunshot explodes out of the darkness hitting the narrator who, dying, delivers his last lines from the floor. Was it Jake's revolver? We don't know.

The murder of the narrator provides Jake with a live case which he pursues through the rest of the performance. However, the antagonistic Lt Dan Anderson arrives to sort what he describes as Jake's mess. Other characters appear including Angel Fatale and the enigmatic Mr Cray, who provide insights into Jake's private life until it ends with the cliff hanger, essential for the opening of the next episode.

This is not all. Throughout the entire performance we are amused and sometimes startled by the Foley artist, the sound effects man, who entertains us by punctuating the story from the stage with explosions, skidding cars, thunder as well as ominous sounds like creaking doors and ringing phones.

We are reminded of the sponsor's commercial interest by what we would now call advert breaks. In this case they extol the virtues of "Jitterz Whole Bean Coffee".

To reinforce the message, Trudy, the spokesperson, says “After eighteen cups of Jitterz in the morning I’m alert and ready to tackle the world”.

The dialogue is so riddled with puns, double entendres and innuendo as well as completely zany lines that you must pay close attention to catch it all: well worth the effort. Although set in the 1950’s, there are frequent strange references to Beatles song titles.

In short, “Jake Revolver, Secret Agent for Hire” provided a complete evening's entertainment, made even more pleasurable by a genuinely delicious meal. Thank you, Ockley Dramatic Society.

Colin Seelig

**Chairman's note:** if you missed this production and wish you knew about it sooner, we will happily add you to our mailing list. Please drop your details to: [chairman@OckleyDramaticSociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@OckleyDramaticSociety.org.uk)

