

Super Shark (2011) ***



JEFF WALTON

Screamworks SMSWR 14001 (download only)

19 tracks - 35:50

The advent of cheaper CGI and the boom in various VOD and cable outlets has led to a number of recent insanely-themed monster films. Ever since *Jaws* (1976), the shark has always been an easy target to demonize in movies, and a host of B (and lower) pictures have fed audiences need for thrills and scares across the years. Along with everything from MegaSharks to Sharknados, we have this comedy-thriller from Fred Olen Ray (*The Brain Leeches*, *Attack of the 60 Foot Centerfolds*), *Super Shark* (2011, predating the aforementioned *Sharknado*). The film grants its titular creature the ability to make its way onto land, much like Chevy Chase's infamous landshark. While you may never fully believe that a shark can walk and fly, composer Jeff Walton's job is to at least help you enjoy the ride. Walton (*Curse of the Puppet Master*) is a Texas-based musician who has scored some 30 films since the early 1990s.

The tone of the score is set fairly quickly with swirling synth strings in the opening "Rig Attack." Walton creates a fair amount of tension with his variety of low brass sounds and touches of effects. Smaller motivic ideas also provide interest, whether they're falling brass glissandi or rhythmic pulses with sudden shifts in pitch (though not quite like the infamous Williams motif). All of this is on display in "Divers," which features a constant pulse pushing things along.

A lyrical theme makes for a nice contrast in "Help Wanted" and the final "Kat Is Safe"; the idea has an eerier counterpart in tracks like "Something Big Came Out of the Sea" and "1 Shark, 2 Girls." Solid action music returns for the exciting "On the Radar" and "Soldier Dinner," with some martial material to boot.

While Walton may not have the London Symphony at his disposal to render these themes, his blend of acoustics, samples and sound design still coalesces into a score that ranks a cut above most of this sort of fare. —**Steven A. Kennedy**

Comments regarding this review can be sent to: stev4uth@hotmail.com.