

# Jack, the lad who took it all in his stride

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**B**OURNEMOUTH schoolboy Jack Palmer, nine, is appearing in a Miss Marple film for ITV later this year.

Jack, who takes drama classes at his school - St Thomas Garnet's in Boscombe - completed three days filming for the murder mystery, *A Murder is Announced*.

He plays a character called Edward Haymes in the drama, which was filmed on location near Henley-on-Thames and Oxford.

Among the well-known artists appearing in the production is the star of countless West End and Broadway musicals, Elaine Paige who is making her return to British television.

The impressive cast also includes Zoë Wanamaker (Harry Potter) and the

(*The Brief*, *Hornblower*) and Virginia McKenna (*Born Free*, *Sliding Doors*).

Geraldine McEwan plays Agatha Christie's famous spinster sleuth Miss Marple.

Jack was selected for the role after his photograph appeared in the latest edition of actors' directory, *Spotlight*. His look was considered perfect for the 1940s/50s costume and hairstyle he was given.

His mum Michelle Palmer said: "Jack really enjoyed the acting despite the fact that there was a lot of hanging around and the days were quite long.

"There weren't any other children on the set but he would talk to everyone and took a great interest in everything and how it all worked. They nicknamed him One Take Jack because all the scenes he did on his own he did in one take. We

and how he took it all in his stride."

In this the second of ITV's four Miss Marple films the villagers of Chipping Cleghorn are agog with curiosity over an advertisement in the local gazette which reads: "A murder is announced and will take place on Friday September 25 at Little Paddocks at 7.30pm."

Is it a childish practical joke or a hoax intended to scare poor Letitia Blacklock? Unable to resist the mysterious invitation, a crowd begins to gather at Little Paddocks at the appointed time when, without warning, the lights go out, a man bursts into the room and fires three shots. When the lights are turned on Letitia is wounded but the mysterious gunman lies dead on the floor.

