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PRESS RELEASE -

“Montague Jack” – Was Jack the Ripper from Wimborne?

Starring Michael Medwin as Inspector Aberline, this new movie explores the life of one of Wimborne’s most notorious characters – Montague John Druitt.

Produced by Wimborne Minster Cine and Video Club the story has been written and directed by Ray Joyce with Peter Hale as director of photography, together with a cast of talented actors from local theatre including Wimborne Drama and Canford School. Shot on location in Wimborne and Poole, it traces the life of Montague Druitt from his early days as a teenager in Wimborne through to his untimely suicide at the age of 31 in 1888.

The story is told through the eyes of the retired Inspector Frederick Aberline (Michael Medwin) who headed the hunt for the Ripper.

We first meet the young Montague (Sean Ahearne) helping his father (Tony Feltham) as he works in his Wimborne surgery. Later we see Montague and his cousin Emily (Lydia Fowler) and learn of their growing friendship. After studying at Winchester Montague goes on to New College Oxford and we meet him again as he leaves university.

Stuart Glossop and Tanya Alexander, both who have played major roles in local theatre sensitively portray the adult Montague and Emily. We follow Montague as he attempts to find his way in London amid conflicts in his career and mental state, which are of increasing concern to Emily. His only enjoyment is in playing cricket, which he does at a very high level in London and Wimborne.

In July 1888 Montague’s mother was declared insane and sent to an asylum. Within a month the Whitechapel murders began and continued until November 1888. Shortly after, the body of Montague Druitt was found floating in the Thames. Emily became convinced that Montague was the “Ripper” and eventually went to the authorities to tell her story.

This movie throws a fascinating light on one of the great unsolved mysteries of the 19th Century.

The movie is being premiered at Corfe Mullen Village Hall on Friday 22nd October. Tickets on sale at the door £4.50.

