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From Times Online

March 4, 2009

Knife-wielding job guilty of murdering Harry Potter actor Rob Knox



“All my life I've had a rather ugly prejudice against barristers”
Michael Gove

Times Online

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(Metropolitan Police/PA)

Karl Bishop: faces a life sentence for murder

IMAGE 1 of 2

Times Online

A violent, knife-wielding thug has convicted today of murdering a young actor who appears in the latest Harry Potter film.

Karl Bishop, 22, armed himself with two kitchen knives to confront Rob Knox and his friends outside the Metro bar in Sidcup, south east London, last May. Bystanders saw his face "screwed up in rage" as he lashed out with the blades, stabbing his victims at least 10 times in less than two minutes.

Rob, 18, had rushed outside to try to protect his younger brother Jamie after hearing that Bishop had threatened him. But he ended up being stabbed five times, once fatally in a main artery. He died in hospital later that night.

Brian Altman QC, prosecuting, said: "Unhappily, his courage and his sense of duty were to cost him his life."

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Rob's life, full of promise, was brought to an end by a "habitual knife carrier" who thought of stabbing people as an "occupational hazard" and had previous convictions for knife crime, Mr Altman said.

The actor had completed filming on *Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince*, in which he played the part of Marcus Belby, just days before, and was looking forward to reprising the role in the next instalment of the series. The film is due to be released in July.

His grieving father, Colin, told hundreds of mourners at his funeral, including *Harry Potter* star Rupert Grint, that he had been "living the dream".

Bishop, of Beaver Lodge, Carlton Road, Sidcup, was found guilty by an Old Bailey jury of murdering the actor and now faces a life sentence. He was also found guilty of wounding Rob's friend Dean Saunders, 23, but was found not guilty of wounding another friend, Tom Hopkins, 19.

The judge, Mr Justice Bean, gave the jury of three women and nine men a majority direction on three other wounding charges.

After the verdict was delivered, Rob's parents burst into tears and were comforted by friends.

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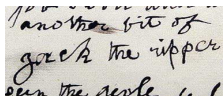
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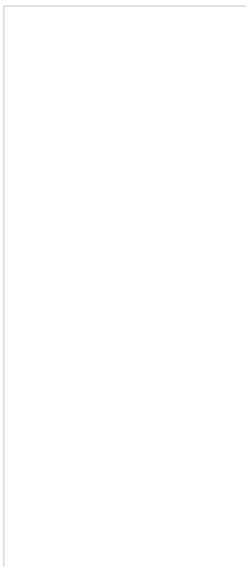
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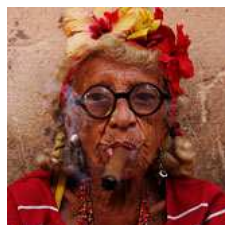


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