

Skins



SYNOPSIS

Tagline

A young man growing up in a small, Minnesota town during the '70's must choose to follow his dream to become a drummer and escape a tradition of alcoholism or continue to work at the local mink ranch in a place where his future seems predestined.

Synopsis

The year is 1973 and 15-year-old Jake Jorgenson lives in the small forgotten town of Wyoming, Minnesota. Growing up in a household with an alcoholic father, he dreams of graduating high school, becoming a professional drummer and buying a set of “skins” as his ticket out of a future that he fears is predestined.

Through his hopes of becoming a musician, Jake often disassociates from the working-class world around him by getting lost in images of rock stardom – the police bringing his father home after a liquor-induced car wreck, the patrol car's multi-colored lights flashing through the windows of his bedroom transport Jake on stage, pounding out frenetic rhythms to an adoring audience.

Yet his only opportunity for gainful employment is to follow his brother's footsteps and work at the local mink ranch where he finds himself among a band of misfits, each with their own unique personalities including Wayne, a washed up old drunk who is at the end of his road. And it is Wayne who discovers, among the innately vicious stock, a mild, good-natured mink he names Oscar and will eventually, with the help of Jake, attempt to rescue from the killing season.

The film reveals many lives including Jake's mother, at her wits end dealing with 3 children and an alcoholic husband, his sister Sandy, pregnant at 16 who is sent to a home for unwed mothers and her boyfriend Roger, having volunteered to go to Vietnam ultimately returning home a shell of what he once was.

Alcoholism, post-World War II, plays a key role in *Skins* depicting it's wide spread use, social acceptability and the many who often turned a blind eye to the effect on its victims, their families and the community at large.

Based on a true story with the feel and sensibility of films such as *Winter's Bone* and *Frozen River*, *Skins* is not only about the yearning to escape a history of familial addiction but of human nature's ability to find salvation in the smallest acts of mercy.