

COMMUNITY MUSICAL THEATRE
CAN BE SUCH A DRAG

SKANKS





Language: English
Genre: Documentary
Running Time: 84 minutes
Country of Origin: USA



Logline

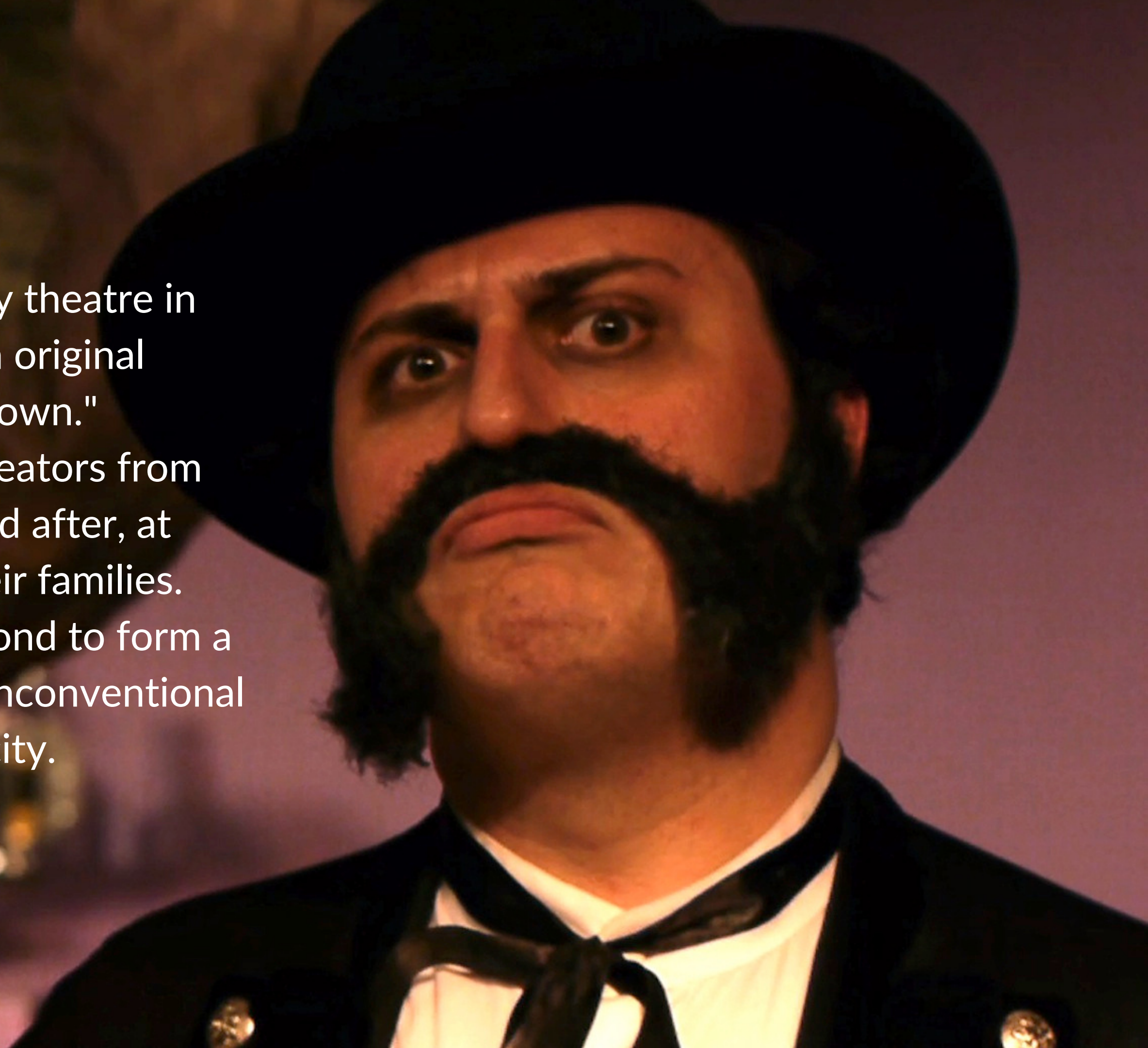
In religion and football obsessed Alabama, a group of actors forge a familial bond, overcoming neglect and rejection, to produce an original drag musical.

Short Synopsis

In the winter of 2012 a community theatre in Birmingham, Alabama mounted an original musical, "Skanks in a One Horse Town."

"Skanks" follows the actors and creators from rehearsal through performance and after, at work, at their homes, and with their families.

The cast of amateur performers bond to form a family of sorts while creating an unconventional show in a conservative Southern city.



Long Synopsis

The documentary “Skanks” follows the creation of an original musical at a community theatre in Birmingham, Alabama. The film particularly focuses on the lives of four actors in the company, Chuck Duck, Flannery Hooks, Juan Carlos Battle, and Nick Crawford, as well as the playwright Billy Ray Brewton. Thirty year-old Billy Ray Brewton founded Theatre Downtown to produce plays that other theatres in Birmingham were unwilling to do, plays that were profane or involved issues of sex and sexuality. One of these plays, a new musical written by Billy Ray himself, is called “Skanks in a One Horse Town.” The play, uproarious and ribald, is about three women, played by men, who accidentally travel from 1978 Studio 54 to 1878 Deep Hole Texas via a disco ball time machine. Along with fellow time travelers Anita Bryant, Conway Twitty, and Meatloaf, the skanks, as the women are called, must stop a local baron from demolishing the town to make room for a new railroad before they return to 1978 and New York City.

Billy Ray has assembled a cast of his favorite local actors. Chuck Duck, a hairdresser by day, plays the role of Oklahoma Jones, one of the skanks. Chuck, recently diagnosed as HIV positive, believes that theatre is the only thing in his life that brings him joy. As we meet his parents, we see the stark religious background from which he has emerged and tried to overcome. Flannery Hooks is the talented composer of the music for the play. Newly married, she balances a job selling make- up at a local department store with her desire to write music and maybe someday have a recording career. “Skanks in a One Horse Town” is Juan Carlos Battle’s first play since he was in the eighth grade. Juan works for his mother’s consignment shop and lives with his mentally ill father. The play provides a new social group for him and a way to escape his trying life at home. Nick Crawford is considered the best actor in Birmingham. Many wonder when he will leave Birmingham for New York or Los Angeles, but Nick is terrified of being a professional actor. He believes that the rigors and stress of such a life will lead to an early death. This group, along with the rest of the cast of 22, work together to build the play, unsure of how the local audience will respond to the crassness and audacity of the script.

Despite city that can be unwelcoming at times and a culture that tells them in subtle and not subtle ways that they are a second-class citizens, the cast of twenty-two bonds to form a family of sorts, and the play becomes the most successful in Theatre Downtown history. “Skanks” is about the redemptive power of theatre, about the cast’s irreverent humor and attempts to find joy no matter the obstacle. As one of the actors says, “When I’m on stage, and the audience is right there... it’s bliss.”







David McMahon - Director, Producer

David McMahon is originally from Birmingham, Alabama. “Skanks” is his first film as a solo director. He previously co-directed “Bayou Blue” with Alix Lambert. He has a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California-San Diego and co-founded Apparition Productions, which produced both “Apparition” by Anne Washburn and “Deathbed” by Mark Schultz Off- Broadway.

Alan Oxman - Producer

Alan's recent credits include "A Matter of Taste" which screened on HBO and was nominated for an Emmy Award and "Page One: Inside the New York Times." He served as post-production supervisor on INSIDE JOB (Oscar Nominee, Best Documentary 2011) and producer on HOT COFFEE (Sundance 2011, Official Competition). He began his career as an editor and his credits include WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE (Grand Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival), HAPPINESS (International Critic's Award, Cannes Film Festival) and STORYTELLING (Cannes Film Festival). He also co-edited UNZIPPED (Audience Award, Sundance Film Festival) which won the A.C.E. Award for Best Documentary Editing. Alan won two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Documentary Editing on the PBS series "CITY LIFE." He co-produced the documentary films CHILDREN UNDERGROUND (Oscar Nomination 2002 & Special Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival) and CONTROL ROOM (Grand Jury Prize, Full Frame Film Festival).

Cameron Cardwell - Director of Photography

Cameron Cardwell is a DP based in Birmingham, Alabama and the owner of Gale Force Productions. Past projects include "Sawyerville" about an impoverished town in Alabama, and "The Brotherhood", which focuses on men who work the power lines in Florida, New Mexico and Hawaii.

Brendan Reed - Editor

Brendan Reed is a New York film editor who has edited for film, television, and new media. His work has screened at the Seattle International Film Festival, on PBS, the Travel, Sundance and History Channels, and on the extra features DVD of Halo 3. Born in Colorado, Brendan received a B.A. (1992) from Colgate University and an M.S. (1996) from Bastyr University in Seattle, Washington.

Skanks End Credits

Directed by David McMahon

Produced by David McMahon

Edited by Brendan Reed

Director of Photography Cameron Caldwell

Cinematography by Chris Holmes

Produced by Alan Oxman

Produced by Laura Caldwell

Producer Brendan Reed

Producer Daoud Heidami

Producer Brandon Miller

Sound David Smith

Production Assistant Owen Kerley

Original Music by Flannery Hooks

Original Songs by Flannery Hooks, Christoph Hooks, Billy Ray Brewton

Opening Titles by Ali Clark

Post Sound Facility Digit Audio, INC

Sound Designer Claire Bell

Re-recording Mixer Jeff Seelye

Post Sound Facility Supervisor George Dellinger

Post Production Services

Final Frame

DI Colorist Charlie Rokosny

DI Online Editor Drew Kilgore

DI Post Producer Caitlin Tartaro

Archival Photographs courtesy of Birmingham, Ala Public Library, Department of Archives and Manuscripts

Archival Footage courtesy of National Archives

“Don’t Leave Me This Way”

Written by Kenneth Gamble, Leon Huff, and Cary Gilbert Performed by Thelma Houston

Courtesy of Universal Music/Warner Chappell

“Voodoo on Me”

Written by Steve Dundas/Mark Hart Courtesy of Extreme Music

Additional Editing Provided by The Edit Center: Valentina Aleman

Nick Barberio

Patricia Benabe

Claude Davila

Aimeé Dennett Abigail Disney Thomas Dubaere Francisco Fernandes Andrea Guendelman Joy Goodwin

Lisa Gunn Penelope Lawson Marcelo Lazari Brandon Miller Esther Park Chloé Reynolds Jeff Rosenbjork JC Scruggs

Ricky Shane Reid

Luke Thorpe Evelyn Tu

Marco Vera Arroyo

Special Thanks

The Cast and crew of “Skanks in a One Horse Town” The Board of Theatre Downtown

Fifth Avenue Antiques

Tim Kallam

The Edit Center

Betsy Kagen

Hans Eric Hollstein

Todd Reid

Carolyn Hembree

Jonathan Padgett

Contact



INDIECAN ENTERTAINMENT
info@indiecanent.com
(416) 898-3456



@indiecanent



Indiecan Entertainment Inc



@IndieCanEnt