

# HAMA

independent Caribbean film & television producers

PRESENTS

## THE SKIN

a howard allen film

HAMAFILMS PRESENTS A HOWARD ALLEN FILM "THE SKIN"  
CARL BRADSHAW  JEFF STEWART  PETER WILLIAMS   
WITH AISHA RALPH  AND BRENT SIMON   
INTRODUCING VERON STOUTE HUMPHREYS SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY KAISO JOE  
SPECIAL EFFECTS MAKE-UP BY STACI HUMPHREYS  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY S. TORRIANO BERRY PRODUCER MITZI ALLEN  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY HOWARD ALLEN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HOWARD ALLEN AND MITZI ALLEN



[www.theskinahamafilm.wordpress.com](http://www.theskinahamafilm.wordpress.com)

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## SYNOPSIS

HAMAFilms, supernatural thriller, 'The Skin' is a modern story filled with Caribbean folklore about Michael and Lisa (Brent Simon & Aisha Ralph) who are a young married couple on the verge of losing their home. Their luck changes when Michael, while on a photo-shoot at the historic Betty's Hope Estate discovers an ancient vase and sells it to an antique dealer (Jeff Stewart). The couple gets little time to celebrate their good fortune before strange things begin to happen. They are introduced to a Jamaican mystic (Carl Bradshaw) who informs them that the ancient relic was not really a blessing but a curse.

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The film incorporates the sights and sounds of Antigua & Barbuda including music by Antiguan calypsonian Kaiso Joe, jazz vocalist Charmain Bailey and reggae artist Promise.

## 2011 Official Selections

CaribbeanTales Toronto Film Showcase

Trinidad & Tobago Film Festival

Visit <http://www.hamafilms.com>

TRT: 100 mins | Rated: PG | Release Date: June 2, 2011

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## Meet the Cast



## CAST

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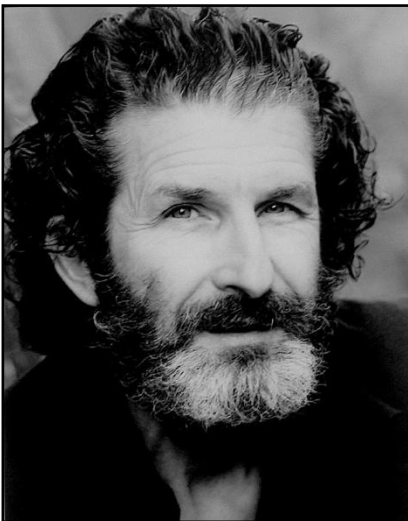


**Carl Bradshaw** (Vision) has the distinction of being one of the most prolific actors in the Caribbean. His career began with the role of Jose alongside Jimmy Cliff in the legendary international film classic *The Harder They Come*.

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Bradshaw has gone on to star in numerous films including *Smile Orange*, *Countryman*, *Dance Hall Queen*, *Mighty Quinn* (with Denzel Washington), *Club Paradise* (with Robin Williams and Jimmy Cliff), and many others. He has been a producer for many video and television shows but most notably Bradshaw is co-producer of *Dancehall Queen*, in which he plays a supporting role.

Bradshaw has been recognized for his achievements with Jamaica's Oscar, The Doctor Bird Award. Bradshaw today is best known for his role in *Third World Cop* (Palm Pictures), the top selling film in Jamaica's cinematic history.



**Jeff Stewart** (Felix) is probably best known for his role as Police Constable Reg Hollis in the ITV drama series *The Bill*. It's a character he created and portrayed for twenty-four years from 1984 to 2008. Before appearing in *The Bill* Stewart played numerous roles in other television series, including Harry Fellows in *Crossroads* in 1980. His first television appearance was in the Nightmare Man for the BBC in 1979. He also played Dukkha in the *Doctor Who* story *Kinda* in 1982. He played a police constable in *Hi-De-Hi!* in 1983, the same year "Woodentop" (the pilot episode of *The Bill*, aired).

His latest projects include a role in Alex De Rakoff's feature film *Dead Man Running* and *Tiffany's Client*. Stewart recently wrapped filming in Lithuania where he appeared in part three of the True Horror series *Frankenstein as Mr. Pass* a starring role for Hardy Pictures out of Twickenham, England for Channel 4.



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**Peter Williams** (Detective Morgan) is Jamaican born and raised. Peter arrived in Canada after university in the U.K. and got the acting bug doing community theatre in Ottawa and Toronto. After moving to Vancouver TV roles on *MacGyver* and *21 Jump Street* were soon followed by the long running series *Neon Rider*. Peter played the popular character “Pin”.

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After guest starring on shows such as *Wise Guy*, *The X Files*, *Outer Limits* and *Relic Hunter*, the role of “Apophis” on the globally syndicated hit *Stargate SG-1* brought Peter to international audiences.

Caribbean audiences have recently responded well to the feature film *A Winter Tale* in which Peter played the central character. He has also been honoured with a Genie nomination for Best Actor in a Leading Role in *Soul Survivor* (Cannes/Sundance/Toronto/Montreal Film Fests), penned and directed by his brother Stephen. Other notable film appearances include Clement Virgo’s *Love Come Down*, *The Chronicles of Riddick* (Universal) and *Cat Woman* (Warner Bros.).



**Aisha Ralph** (Lisa Fenton) as a teenager had a successful modelling career under the tutelage of top Caribbean designers. She went on to become a Certified Public Accountant having earned a dual Bachelor’s degree in Accounting and Finance from Saint Mary’s University and has worked in top accounting firms throughout the world.

In 2002, Aisha gracefully took on the challenge of competing in the Miss Universe pageant, capitalizing once more on her striking looks and high IQ. Prior to her role in *The Skin* she was cast as Desire Valentine, in HAMA Films political thriller, *No Seed* (2002).

Aisha is also a birth and post-partum doula and midwife-in-training, assisting mothers through one of the most powerful and life changing events in their lives, and a natural health and wellness consultant.

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**Brent Simon** (Michael) developed a love for acting after appearing in a church play. He spent his teenage years honing those skills, never dreaming that he would ever get an opportunity to use them. In 2009, his dream came true when he was offered a role in HAMA Films feature film *The Skin*.

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Brent's interest in music and entertainment expanded as he became involved in Jam Band music. He co-wrote a single which appeared on Taxik' band's second album "De Udda Side: Jus Fantastik". Brent joined Southwell Models Inc. in 2007 and has appeared in "She Magazine" and in 2008 has walked the runway with international model sensation Jade from America's Next Top Model Cycle 6.



**Veron Stoute Humphreys** (Soucayant) is a professional dancer and choreographer. She got the acting bug during the filming of *Diabliesse* (2005) when she played a stunt double. She makes her acting debut in *The Skin* with her role as the Soucouyant, which she also choreographed.

In 1991, the classically trained dancer used her theatrical flare, natural poise and grace to clinch both the Miss Antigua title and The Jaycees Caribbean Queen competition. Later that year, Antigua and Barbuda's most nationally recognized dancer opened V.S. Dance School. Many of her students have gone on to win much coveted places in two of the world's top dance schools, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Harlem Dance Theatre. Veron currently lives and works in New York as an actress, model and dancer.

## CREW

**Howard Allen: Director/Producer**

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Howard Allen is an independent film and television director/producer and the founder of **HAMA Productions**. He made his feature film directorial debut with *The Sweetest Mango* a romantic comedy based on how he and his wife met and fell in love. It was released in February 2001. *The Sweetest Mango* became Antigua and Barbuda's first locally produced feature film and the first indigenous film for the Eastern Caribbean. It has become an iconic film that is still being screened after appearing at several film festivals in North America and Caribbean and made its world television premiere on Caribvision in 2007 to potential audience of 280 million via DirecTV.

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Howard's directorial credits also include *No Seed* (2002) a drama and *Diablesse* (2005), Caribbean folklore. His fourth film *The Skin* (2011) starring Jamaican film icon Carl Bradshaw is his most ambitious project to date.

Howard's work as a filmmaker has been singled out by the department of Cinema and Photography at Ithaca College in New York, for his innovative approach to filmmaking in a developing country. He has conducted master classes at Ithaca College on "**Feature Filmmaking on a Shoestring Budget.**"

Howard has begun training young people in the art of television and film production in the hopes of building a cadre of future film industry professionals in Antigua and Barbuda. He has also conducted a UNICEF funded television production workshops at the Youth Department in Antigua & Barbuda. Howard hopes that filmmaking in Antigua and Barbuda will become as much a part of its creative and cultural expression as calypso and pan.

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## S. Torriano Berry: Director of Photography



An accomplished scholar and an award-winning filmmaker, Berry graduated with an M.F.A. from UCLA film school in 1985 and currently is an associate professor at Howard University's Department of Radio, Television and Film. He has directed a number of film and video shorts, including *Monologue* (1984), *Deathly Realities* (1985), *Money'll Eat You Up* (1992), and *Euphrates Sun* (1993). Berry's first feature-length film,

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*Embalmer* (1996), which he also edited as a short film, was a finalist in Showtime's Black Filmmaker's Showcase. Berry created and executive produced the Black Independent Showcase, a television series that featured independent and student film projects; *The Black Beyond*, an anthology series of horror shorts; *Black Visions Silver Screen*, a showcase for Howard University student filmmakers; and the half hour television movies *The Light* and *When It's Your Turn*. Berry is co-author of the cinema book *The 50 Most Influential Black Films: A Celebration of African American Talent* (2001) and he has written two novels, *Tears* (1991) and *The Honeyman's Son* (2002). He directed *Noh Matta Wat!* the first Belizean dramatic television series, which first aired in 2005.



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## Mitzi Allen: Producer



Mitzi Allen has been working in the media for the past 28 years as a broadcast journalist and producer. Her career began in Toronto, Canada with CFTO TV as a news reporter. She is now the co-owner of HAMA Productions, an independent film and television production company. She is the producer of four feature films, *The Sweetest Mango*, *No Seed*, *Diabliesse*, and *The Skin* along the television drama series *Paradise View*. Mitzi has produced a number of documentaries on social and environmental issues, which are distributed throughout the Caribbean and North America. She is the managing director of HAMA Inc. and the host of *LIVE UP The Show* a regional television programme produced by the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV.

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## About HAMA Productions

# HAMA

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Howard and his wife Mitzi started HAMA Productions in 1992. The company quickly gained a reputation for its innovative approach to high quality productions. **HAMA** is the producer of television programmes, such as *Island Magazine*, *Pet Playhouse*, *Teen Talk*, *Queen Material*, and the drama series *Paradise View*, along with many documentaries and industrial videos. **HAMA** also produces feature reports for television programmes in North America.

**HAMA's** work in filmmaking was also recognized by the Performing Arts Society of Antigua & Barbuda with an award for its "*pioneering work in film*" in Antigua & Barbuda. **HAMA Productions** was recognized by the Youth Department in the Ministry of Education with a "*Young Pioneers*" award for its inspiring work as pioneers in filmmaking in Antigua & Barbuda.

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HUFF POST ENTERTAINMENT  
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY



**Elizabeth Abbott**

[www.elizabethabbott.ca](http://www.elizabethabbott.ca)

GET UPDATES FROM ELIZABETH ABBOTT



## The Skin Will Make You Jump Out of Yours!

Posted: 9/19/11 07:13 PM ET



React > Inspiring Funny Hot Scary Outrageous Amazing Weird Crazy

Read more > [Aisha Ralphy](#) , [Antigua And Barbuda](#) , [Betty's Hope](#) , [Brent Simon](#) , [Caribbean Folklore](#) , [Caribbean History](#) , [Carl Bradshaw](#) , [Howard Allen](#) , [Jeff Stewart](#) , [Mitzi Allen](#) , [Peter Williams](#) , [The Skin](#) , [Veron Stoute Humphreys](#) , [Antigua](#) , [Caribbeantaes](#) , [Soucayant](#) , [Supernatural](#) , [Entertainment News](#)

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From the small, beach-blessed Caribbean island of Antigua comes *The Skin*, a full-length feature film screened at Toronto's [CaribbeanTales Film Festival](#) as part of its North American/European-wide tour. The fourth film by husband-and-wife team Howard and Mitzi Allen, *The Skin* is a supernatural thriller steeped in Caribbean folkloric mysticism made doubly eerie by its seemingly normal setting in a fine villa in modern Antigua.

Plot-wise, paying that villa's mortgage is young couple Lisa and Michael Fenton's driving concern as the bank moves to foreclose on them. But despite Lisa's determined efforts to raise money, even a yard sale of all their household belongings added to photographer Michael's assignments, they always fall short.

Their luck changes (for the scarier!) when Michael happens upon a centuries-old vase buried deep in the ruins of [Betty's Hope](#), a former sugar estate. (Spoiler alert: he notices it while peeing in the woods after a photo shoot there.) Lisa scrubs the filthy vase clean, rinses out its disgusting and unidentifiable contents, and Michael sells it to Felix, an expatriate antique dealer, for enough money to acquit their mortgage and indulge in a

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### HUFFPOST



MOST POPULAR ON H



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## Huffington Post Review by Elizabeth Abbott continued...

clothes-shopping spree.

And that's when the normalcy of the everyday world spins into the mystery of the demonic past, and the thoroughly modern Fentons make the terrifying acquaintance of a soucouyant, an evil spirit disguised by day as a gruesome crone who strips off her skin at night and assumes the form of a fireball to penetrate random victims' homes in search of blood or a baby she can sacrifice.

Lisa remains sceptical about things supernatural. But when the mystic Vision arrives from Jamaica to work counter-magic, her unbelief is a sharp counterpoint to the escalating nightly terror wrought by the enraged soucayant in an increasingly frenzied search for her skin.

The Skin's special effects are as sophisticated and otherworldly as the dialogue is simple and matter-of-fact. This is a triumph (among many) in a film produced for the stupendously low dollar figure of US \$100,000. It is also a tribute to Mitzi Allen's producer's genius, who ensured that every dollar earned by product placement, from rolls of Cottonelle in the bathroom to a whirlwind shopping spree and fashion show in Antiguan clothing shops, was stretched to gossamer thinness.

The characters were ably acted by emerging Antiguan actors (Aisha Ralph as Lisa, Brent Simon as Michael) and renowned Jamaican actors Carl Bradshaw (Vision) and Peter Williams (Detective Morgan) and Scottish actor Jeff Stewart (Felix). Antiguan dancer and choreographer Veron Stoute Humphreys, who made a sensational acting debut as the soucayant, deserves special mention. All played to the gently sardonic humour - a brief closeup of the supercilious, womanizing detective as he gazed at Lisa's shapely ass, the big For Sale sign at film's end - that provoked rollicking belly-laughs from the delighted audience. It served as well to heighten the contrast between the tranquillity of today's Antigua and the roiling, danger-filled Antigua of yesteryear, when the slavery and brutality of the sugar world ruled the land.

"I wanted," director Howard Allen explained, "to tell the story of Caribbean folklore and history as simply as possible, without recrimination and retribution." The post-screening outpouring of applause and congratulations from audience members, men and women who jumped up and declared their pride in his achievements, were proof of his success. By juxtaposing a narrative that was a combination of thriller and supernatural drama, Allen has developed a confident, laconic cinematic style that speaks volumes to his passion and commitment.

**More in Entertainment..**



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## PRESS RELEASE

Toronto Crowd Wowed by *The Skin*



ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (September 21 2011) – Amazing, Excellent and “Well Told” are some of the descriptive words coming out of Toronto after last Friday’s screening of the thriller *The Skin* by HAMA Films Antigua.

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*The Skin* was one of the most anticipated films at this year’s Caribbean Tales Toronto Film Showcase 2011. The red carpet premiere was co-hosted by the Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda in Toronto Janil Greenaway and

in attendance were members of the Caribbean community diplomatic corps, the Antigua and Barbuda Association along with actor Peter Williams and Jazz vocalist Charmain Bailey who wrote and performed the movie’s theme song “The Wrath”.

A movie review written by Elizabeth Abbott has already made its way to the popular Huffingtonpost.com, in which she says *The Skin* will make audiences want to jump out of theirs.

“*The Skin*’s special effects are as sophisticated and otherworldly as the dialogue is simple and matter-of-fact. This is a triumph (among many) in a film produced for the stupendously low dollar figure of US \$100,000. It is also a tribute to Mitzi Allen’s producer’s genius, who ensured that every dollar earned by product placement, from rolls of Cottonelle in the bathroom to a whirlwind shopping spree and fashion show in Antiguan clothing shops, was stretched to gossamer thinness,” Abbott writes.

“The characters were ably acted by emerging Antiguan actors (Aisha Ralph as Lisa, Brent Simon as Michael) and renowned Jamaican actors Carl Bradshaw (Vision) and Peter Williams (Detective Morgan). Antiguan dancer and choreographer Veron Stoute Humphreys, who made a sensational acting debut as the *soucayant*, deserves special mention,” the reviewer notes.

“I wanted,” director Howard Allen explained, “to tell the story of Caribbean folklore and history as simply as possible, without recrimination and retribution.”

“The post-screening outpouring of applause and congratulations from audience members, men and women who jumped up and declared their pride in his achievements, were proof of his success. By juxtaposing a narrative that was a combination of thriller and supernatural ....



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...drama, Allen has developed a confident, laconic cinematic style that speaks volumes to his passion and commitment.”

“The Skin was amazing. Mitzi and Howard you both deserve an award,” said Camille Selvon Abrahams of Anima Caribbean, Trinidad. “Horror, humour a mixture of Caribbean accents based in beautiful Antigua. This film should be seen by all Caribbean Filmmakers. This genre has never been explored by Caribbean film makers so successfully.”

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Cheston Beckford who was also at the Toronto screening wrote on Facebook it was a “super, excellent movie. Congrats on a great showing. Job well done by you and your team. Looking forward to many more movies from HAMA.”

Actor Peter Williams, who plays the lecherous Detective Morgan in the film, got the chance to see the completed project in Toronto. “I waited a long time to see this movie and it was well worth the wait. I’m proud to have helped prepare Brent and Aisha for their star turns. Howard got the best out of them,” he said.

“This is a Caribbean film with a captivating storyline, consistent pacing, plenty laughs (both humorous and nervous) and performances to be proud of. Certainly not out of place in Toronto at the same time as the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival. This film will entertain wider audiences, mark my words. *The Skin* delighted the audience in Toronto on Friday night. I was proud to be associated with such an accomplished film.”

*The Skin* will be shown at the Trinidad & Tobago Film Festival, Friday September 30, with upcoming dates for the International Black Film Festival in Nashville, Tennessee and New York in October.

You can catch behind the scene videos of their tour, photos from the premiere and read about the making of *The Skin* on the HAMAFilms Antigua Facebook page. Watch the movie trailer, see the behind the scenes video and read about the making of *The Skin* on <http://theskinahamafilm.wordpress.com>.

ENDS

Photo caption: On the red carpet (L-R) actor Peter Williams, Bernice Moore Pinnell, producer Mitzi Allen, director Howard Allen, Gordon Pinnell at the Toronto premiere of *The Skin*. (Photo by Howard Queeley)

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## PRESS RELEASE

Brent & Aisha's Work in *The Skin* Lauded at CaribbeanTales Film Festival

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – The performances of newcomers Aisha Ralph and Brent Simon of Antigua were praised during the Barbados preview of *The SKIN*, this past weekend. Ralph and Simon play a young couple who discover an ancient artefact, which changes their lives and unleashes a soucayant in *The SKIN*, a film written and directed by Howard Allen.

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This is the fourth feature project by Howard and his wife, Mitzi Allen of HAMAFilms Antigua. The couple made the bold step to preview the film at the Barbados film festival rather than wait for the scheduled June premiere at home.



“I really liked the feedback from the industry folks. It was honest and constructive. A pre-screening outside of Antigua was the best thing we ever did,” said Mitzi who is the Executive Producer for the film.

*The SKIN* was the closing feature at the CaribbeanTales Film Festival & Symposium which brought together audiences, industry veterans and newcomers in an informal and highly creative environment to meet, greet, and exchange ideas. The movie received high acclaim from the international filmmakers present.

During the panel review following the screening, Kethiwe Ngcobo, CEO and Producer at Infuzion Media South Africa said “You guys have nailed it! *The SKIN* is a film that has found its audience. Your first feature film *The Sweetest Mango* was a hit this just might be an even bigger hit.”

Neema Barnette, an Emmy award winning producer/director and professor at the renowned UCLA School of Film and Television said “They’ve got everything; a love story, action thriller and special effects. What they have is something that will make people flock to the cinema.”

The movie also stars Jamaican film icon Carl Bradshaw, who plays Vision, Jeff Stewart of *The Bill* and Peter Williams of *Stargate SG1* and *A Winter Tale*. (...Continued on next page)

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“The story really worked and it resonated with the audience. They loved Bradshaw as we all do but couldn’t believe that Aisha and Brent weren’t professional actors,” Mitzi added.

Writer and Director of *The SKIN*, Howard Allen, Emmy Award Winning Director Neema Barnette and Executive Producer of *The SKIN* Mitzi Allen pose for the cameras following Barnette’s Directing Master Class at CaribbeanTales Film Festival in Barbados on Sunday.

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Barnette, who directed 80s comedy series *The Cosby Show*, called Aisha a “strong actress” and expressed surprise that the young actors were newcomers to the industry.

Aisha, a former Miss Universe contender had a small role in *No Seed*, another HAMA Films Antigua project. However, this is former model and musician Brent Simon’s first time on the big screen.

Brent said via Facebook that he was thankful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of *The SKIN* and also appreciated the guidance given by Peter Williams, who plays a police officer in the 90-minute feature.

*The SKIN* begins its cinematic run in Antigua and the Caribbean in June 2011.

Learn more about *The SKIN* at <http://hamafilms.com> or fan them on Facebook at HAMA Films Antigua.

# THE SKIN

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## PHOTOS





# THE SKIN

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## CREDITS

### PRINCIPAL CAST

Carl Bradshaw

Jeff Stewart

Peter Williams

Aisha Ralph

Brent Simon

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### PRODUCTION COMPANY

HAMA Productions

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Howard Allen

Mitzi Allen

First Run Entertainment

### PRODUCERS

Mitzi Allen

S. Torriano Berry

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## CREDITS CONTINUED

### SCREENPLAY

Howard Allen

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### CINEMATOGRAPHER

S. Torriano Berry

### EDITOR

Howard Allen

### MUSIC

Kevin Macleod

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## CONTACT

Bring The Skin to your town or city:

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