



# SKUNK

A FILM BY  
DEEK MARI

**Title of Film** SKUNK  
**Country of Production** United States  
**Date of Completion** October 2023  
**Shooting Format** Alexa 35mm, ARRI Raw, 1:85:1  
**Screening Format** Pro Res  
**Duration** 12 minutes, 31 seconds  
**Genre** LGBTQ+ fantasy, drama  
**Language** English

**Logline**

A 14-year-old boy takes a transformative step toward self-acceptance during California's historic Prop 8 movement.

**Writer/Director** **Derek Mari**  
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**Producers** Derek Mari Dan Sima Kimberly Pinkston-Parker  
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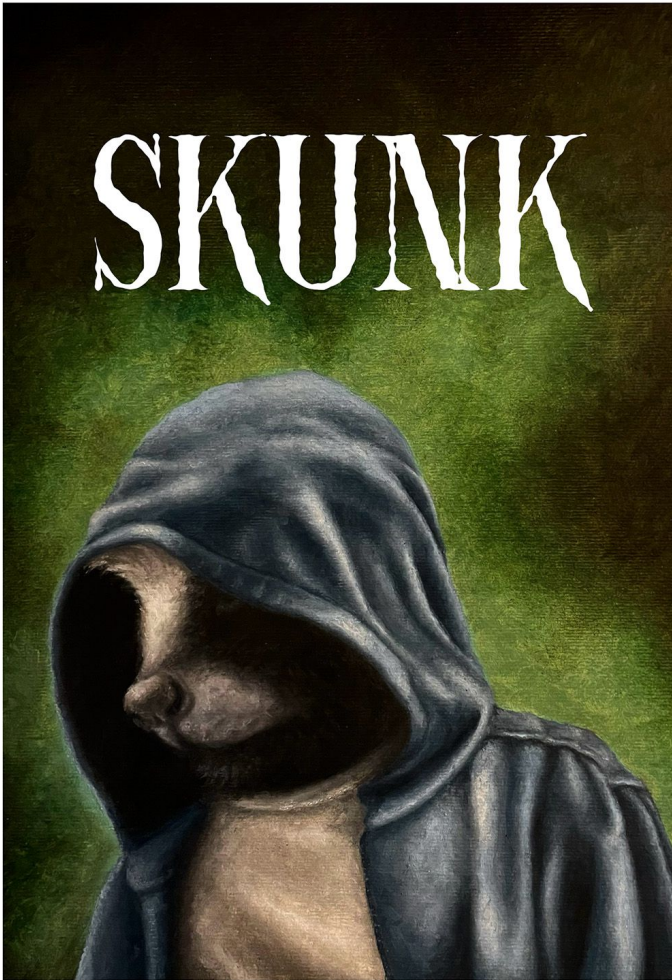
## Synopsis

14-year-old Robbie attends to cleaning out his late grandmother's house along with his father and brother shortly after her passing. In this small conservative town, political tensions simmer as the 2008 presidential election nears its conclusion. Robbie soon learns of Prop 8, a California proposition to ban same-sex marriage, and his fears about his own identity rise to the surface. When a neighbor confronts the family about the stench of a skunk coming from their property, Robbie's anxieties begin to manifest in his physical transformation into a skunk. As he tries to hide the signs from his family, his brother soon catches on and Robbie learns that he won't have to do this alone.



## Director's Statement

"Skunk" is a very personal story. I was 14 years old when I was introduced to nation-wide discrimination against people of the LGBTQ+ community. In 2008, Prop 8 -- a proposition aimed to ban same-sex marriage in California -- was all over the news. It was my first glimpse into the challenges I'd face growing up gay in America. I wanted to tell this story from the perspective of a young boy whose perceptions of reality and imagination have yet to distinguish themselves from one another. I chose to approach this cinematic language of this tale as a grounded fantasy. Our young protagonist's fears manifest themselves in his physical transformation as he slowly transforms into a skunk -- a kind of Tim Burton-esque take on American history.



## Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/directorderek/skunktrailer>

BLINK & MISS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "SKUNK" WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DEREK MARI  
LANDER EASTLAND TANNER HAGEN WILL HINES AND JOHN PIRRUCCELLO CASTING BY EMILY COOK  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATT BURKE PRODUCED BY DAN SIMA KIMBERLY PINKSTON PARKER AND DEREK MARI ORIGINAL MUSIC BY CAROLINE HO









**Derek Mari (Writer/Director/Editor)** lives in Los Angeles with industry experience working for companies like Bad Robot Productions and Kilter Films. His original screenplays have placed in acclaimed festivals such as the Academy Nicholls Fellowship and the Austin Film Festival and his 2022 short comedy, *Fancy Hat Missing Son*, was featured on Vulture and Vimeo Staff Picks. His first feature film (a semi-autobiographical comedy about life with Crohn's disease) is currently in development with Traverse32 and Paul Feig's prod-co with plans to shoot in 2024. He can be seen performing with his all-queer improv comedy group at the Upright Citizens Brigade theater in Los Angeles.

**Dan Sima (Producer)** developed and produced *Spider & Jessie* (2023), starring Emmy-nominated McKenna Grace (*The Handmaid's Tale*, *Ghostbusters*), Tony-nominated Jesse Williams (*Grey's Anatomy*), and Dacre Montgomery (*Stranger Things*). He is also producing *Crohn*, a dramedy set up with Paul Feig's prod-co and Traverse32; and *Life As We Knew It*, the feature adaptation of the NY Times Bestselling book series, in partnership with Boo Pictures. After earning an MBA from USC, Dan spent six years at Sony Pictures and two years at Paramount Pictures. He was born in Romania and raised in Southern California by his single mother and grandmother.

**Kimberly Pinkston-Parker (Producer)** expanded her multi artistic endeavors to the film production side of the industry after spending six years designing custom red carpet dresses for leading actresses such as Kate Hudson, Isla Fisher, Emily Hampshire, Lilly Singh, Sarah Sutherland and Anna Konkle for the Oscars, Emmys and their movie premieres. Injecting her creative vision into storytelling, Kimberly was the Creative Producer for *Jinn Particle*, *Big Interview*, *Daddies Boi*, *Celebrity Sighting*, *Skunk* and more in the works. Kimberly grew up in South Carolina spending her days making dresses, putting on plays and traipsing through the woods on adventures - not too different from her adult life today in Los Angeles, California.

**Matt Burke (Director of Photography)** is a cinematographer in LA. His work has been shown in festivals in the US, UK, and Hong Kong, and he draws inspiration from Wong Kar-Wai, Andrea Arnold, and Ruben Östlund among others. In his free time he builds custom furniture.