

Chapter 1 : The Reflecting Skin (DVD,) | eBay

"The Reflecting Skin" is among the most beautiful and elegiac movies I have ever seen. It is a dark and depressing film which takes place during the 1950s in a small town in Alberta, Canada. Ridley's full-length debut features many memorable moments for example a frog exploding in a torrent of blood and guts, a couple of chirping ladies walking close to Seth and carrying a dead.

AC as well as for links to four other essays published at Filmmaker. The nightmare of childhood. And it only gets worse. You can see this in the juxtaposition of lush landscape paintings depicting thick wheat fields, warm sunsets and quaint farmhouses, with black-and-white photos of massive dust storms, crops decimated by grasshoppers and hollow-eyed farmers. For every grain elevator that rises stoically into the sky, there are a hundred abandoned farmhouses sinking into the soil. Nature, as indifferent as it is, can seem both nurturing and cruel. And therein sprouts the kernel of madness. No film has so fully explored the horrific possibilities of this place as *The Reflecting Skin* by Philip Ridley. The film opens with him cutting through a golden wheat field as he brings a huge toad to his friends, Kim and Eben. The boys hide and wait for a woman in black to walk by and look at the toad. Seth uses his slingshot to explode it all over her. Blood drips from her horrified face as the boys escape. Seth returns home to a weather-beaten house, a yard full of decaying farm equipment and cars, and a ramshackle garage with gas pumps. Dove patriarch Luke Duncan Fraser lounges on a broken couch, reading pulp fiction about a prairie vampire. The bloodsucker on the cover "a pale, blonde woman in black" resembles the bloodied prank victim, Dolphin Blue Lindsay Duncan. The police suspect Luke, who years earlier was caught kissing a seventeen-year-old boy. The real killers, however, appear to be four greasers who cruise the back roads in a giant black Cadillac that glides with the predatory menace of a steel shark one that drinks gas at the Dove Garage. *The Reflecting Skin* is layered with symbolic imagery that runs the gamut from arresting to absolutely shocking. For example, one character douses himself with gas and immolates himself in front of Seth. Innocence is stillborn "the movie makes death and decay downright Shakespearean. Ridley, also a celebrated playwright and visual artist, won awards for his literary film when it played the Cannes Film Festival. Seemingly normal older Dove brother Cameron Viggo Mortensen comes home from being stationed in Japan to tell stories of witnessing beautiful explosions. Before long, his hair starts to fall out, he loses weight and his gums bleed. Meanwhile, another boy goes missing, Ruth slips further into hysteria, and that black Cadillac continues to circle ever closer. In much the way our protagonist processes his world through the eyes of a child, Ridley approaches the prairie through the eyes of an outsider, reworking it into something new entirely. For me, however, the movie is pure Canadiana, as the Alberta landscape is unmistakable. But what hews closer to the bone is a sense of something darker stirring beneath the black prairie soil. We looked into murky culverts, by the remains of rusted-out cars with trees growing through them, and into long-abandoned farmhouses. A few hours of this and the mind would play tricks; what looked through a grimy window like a body was just a pair of shoes and some clothes left behind decades earlier. The experience lowered a spooky shroud over that idyllic rural landscape that never fully lifted. But *The Reflecting Skin* is the only work that explores the horrific implications of prairie gothic horror with such depth and flair for the surreal. Beyond monsters real and imagined, beyond childhood trauma, and beyond the pale is a prairie that lives in the dark imagination. He moved to the city from Edmonton in , after getting a degree in Film and Media Studies from the University of Alberta. He also programs films, hosts panels at the annual Festival of Fear, is a published fiction writer, and an award-winning filmmaker.

Chapter 2 : The Reflecting Skin - Wikipedia

The Reflecting Skin is a British-Canadian horror film written and directed by Philip Ridley and starring Jeremy Cooper, Viggo Mortensen and Lindsay Duncan.

When the brother falls in love with the vampire widow, Seth tries to find a way to save him. Nothing that happens in *The Reflecting Skin* is literally impossible. In , the comparison was inevitable: Most significantly, for better or worse, *The Reflecting Skin* has a literary sensibility missing in *Lynch*. It feels like a adaptation of an out-there experimental novella. The first is characterization. Each of the characters is painstakingly detailed and drawn. Despite their magnified eccentricities, each seems very real. Joshua, who dresses like a Pilgrim in a Thanksgiving pageant and is presumably a Mennonite or Quaker, is overplayed by David Longworth. He chews such massive chunks of scenery in his first appearance, where he is tormented by the suspicion that God has taken his son from him as punishment for his wicked thoughts, that he makes heartbreaking grief seem like a bad joke. The acting in the movie as a whole is at best uneven. Consider, for example, the symbol of drinking water. Later, his mother forces the boy to drink obscene amounts of water as a punishment. What this web of symbols all may mean, if anything, is left to the viewer to decide. Most obviously, it refers to the unnaturally shiny skin of a baby seen in a photograph, a victim of the Hiroshima bombing. But skin imagery also recurs throughout other parts of the film: Other layers of images are treated in a similar fashion: So do babies, who are also linked to angels. So do references to sin, particularly to original sin. What it all may add up to is left unsaid. Obviously, there is a theme of loss of moral innocence, and also a theme of encroaching age and decay. But, for the most part, Ridley fills the screen with unresolved metaphors that seethe and boil just below the surface of the narrative. The film deliberately points at some truth it finds is beyond its ability to grasp. The main aspect of the movie that turns audiences off is its relentless pessimism. In the world of *The Reflecting Skin*, death seems to be the happiest end to which someone can come. Each and every character is singled out for a tragic end, and although there is a good bit of gallows humor along the way, most viewers will find the ceaseless negativism hard to bear. The scene is also unintentionally ridiculous.

Chapter 3 : Why I love ' frog-blood splattered Lindsay Duncan in *The Reflecting Skin* | Film | The Guardian

*Unfortunately, this version of the *Reflecting Skin* by Miramax is simply a cheap transfer from a pan and scan VHS tape. Sad for an overlooked cinematic classic that deserves the Criterion treatment. I understand that it has been released on both DVD and Blu-ray widescreen with the alternate ending in Europe and Japan.*

Chapter 4 : *The Reflecting Skin* (Philip Ridley) | The Big Picture Magazine

*Set in a s-era American heartland of sprawling wheat fields and lonely old houses, *The Reflecting Skin* is British director Philip Ridley's fascinating and very strange investigation into the.*

Chapter 5 : *The Reflecting Skin* () - News - IMDb

*In the world of *The Reflecting Skin*, death seems to be the happiest end to which someone can come. The alternative is to be pounded by tragedy and loss into a mush of madness, as happens to Ruth, almost happened to Dolphin, and may happen to Cameron.*

Chapter 6 : *THE REFLECTING SKIN* () | Weird Movies

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Chapter 7 : A Haunting on the Screen: The Reflecting Skin

The Reflecting Skin is a British-Canadian horror film written and directed by Philip Ridley and starring Jeremy Cooper, Viggo Mortensen and Lindsay Dunc.

Chapter 8 : The Reflecting Skin Blu-ray (United Kingdom)

"The Reflecting Skin" () starring Viggo Mortensen, Lindsay Duncan, Jeremy Cooper is a strange coming of age movie that takes place in the s. It takes place in the wheat fields of Idaho. Seth Dove (Cooper) is a young boy growing up in the rural Mid West.

Chapter 9 : Watch The Reflecting Skin | Free Online Movie Streaming

The Reflecting Skin Blu-ray offers decent video and superb audio in this enjoyable Blu-ray release Set in the U.S. midwest during the s, a morbid little boy persecutes a young widow whom he's.