

## Reptile Day - a science-fiction comedy by Tom Hickmore

In a cartoon world as real as Gotham City stands a small pet shop, Reptilopia, run by Colin under the watchful eye of his mother. Colin, an attractive if skinny fellow, was forced into the family business when his dad was eaten by a crocodile.

One day local tycoon, Mr Skink, comes into the shop with his two heavies asking for an obscure lizard. He is impressed with Colin's knowledge of his subject and fascinated by Colin's sunburned and peeling skin. Credulous Colin takes a ride with Skink in his Limo. This is all very sudden. Is Skink a predatory gay after Colin's body? After a series of misunderstandings, Skink mistakes Colin for a reptilian, declares that Colin's years of hiding his true nature have come to an end and promptly transforms into a scaly monster. Colin screams, leaps from the Limo and skidaddles, chased by Skink's gun-toting heavies.

Reptile Day is designed for a low budget – with actors against blue screen, using artwork instead of sets, cardboard props, puppets and toys. It creates a genuinely involving drama, while revealing the rough edges of the way it was put together. Think comic book, think minimalist theatre, think gothic puppet show, think Dr. Who camp.

COLIN - the daydreaming shopkeeper forced to fight for his life against an enemy more deadly than Al-Qaeda.

SKINK - the ruthless head of the Reptilians. A creature so heartless he enjoys torturing his girlfriend when he discovers she's a traitor.

TINA - the genetically-modified stripper, lover of Skink, and secret agent for the anti-reptilians.

DAVID BIKE - anti-reptilian mastermind and guru who speaks in impenetrable new-age jargon. Organiser of a pitiful attempt to overthrow the insidious hegemony of the reptilians.

Fleeing from Skink's heavies, Colin gets the blame for a murder. He cannot go to the police, he can only push on and to try to get to the bottom of the huge conspiracy by the reptilians to take over the planet.

Reptile Day – somewhere between Sin City and Dogville.