# How the cast of Skins went on to shape film and television



The British television series "Skins," which first aired on E4 in 2007, has left a lasting mark on audiences with its candid portrayal of teenagers navigating the complexities of sixth form life in Bristol. Celebrated for its blend of humour and intense drama, the show attracted both acclaim and controversy during its run until 2013, which included three generations of characters and a special seventh season revisiting popular figures after graduation.

Despite some criticism from parents concerned that it glamorised themes such as sex, drugs, and partying, "Skins" garnered significant recognition, including winning Best TV Show at the 2011 NME Awards. Moreover, the series served as a launching pad for several cast members who have since become notable figures in film and television.

Dev Patel, who played the endearing Anwar Kharral in the first generation, transitioned from a newcomer with no previous acting experience to an international star. His character was crafted around Patel’s own personality after an impressive audition. Patel’s career flourished with early work on "Slumdog Millionaire," which won eight Academy Awards, followed by roles in films like "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" and TV projects such as Aaron Sorkin’s "The Newsroom." More recent credits include "The Green Knight," "Monkey Man," and the anthology series "Modern Love."

Daniel Kaluuya, who portrayed Posh Kenneth, not only acted but also contributed to the writing on early series of the show. Since "Skins," he has appeared in television staples such as "Silent Witness" and "Doctor Who," and looks set for a continually rising trajectory in film. His notable performances include "Get Out," which earned him an Oscar nomination, and portraying W'Kabi in Marvel’s "Black Panther." His role in "Judas and the Black Messiah" won him both a BAFTA and an Academy Award.

Nicholas Hoult’s character, Tony Stonem, evolved significantly across the series before Hoult swiftly moved into major film roles. After participation in dramas like "A Single Man," Hoult became widely recognised as Hank McCoy/The Beast in the "X-Men" franchise. Other prominent works include "Jack the Giant Slayer," "Warm Bodies," and portraying J.R.R. Tolkien in the eponymous biopic. His recent projects involve taking on the role of Lex Luthor in James Gunn’s upcoming "Superman" film.

Hannah Murray, best known for playing Cassie Ainsworth—a character grappling with mental health and an eating disorder—has expanded her portfolio to stage and film, including "That Face," "Chatroom," and Tim Burton’s "Dark Shadows." She is also known for her long-standing role in HBO’s "Game of Thrones" as Gilly. Murray has been open about her personal challenges, including her experiences with a wellness cult, which she detailed in promoting her memoir "Make-Believe."

Joe Dempsie’s role as Chris Miles led him to several roles in British television and film, notably joining "Game of Thrones" as Gendry, a fan-favourite character who returned dramatically after a hiatus.

April Pearson, famous as Michelle Richardson, earned accolades for her portrayal and transitioned into film and theatre. Reflecting on the camaraderie within the cast off-screen, Pearson remarked in an interview with NME, "Oh no, they’re Hollywood stars now. I think a lot of them do still hang out, but I don’t see them as much as I would like to. When Skins finished I wasn’t ready to jump straight into moving to London and going to auditions all the time, so I took a bit of time."

Mike Bailey, who played Sid Jenkins, left the acting industry in 2017 to pursue drama education and now works as a high school drama teacher.

Danny Dyer featured in the first series as Malcolm, a character entwined in family and generational conflicts. Already well known at the time, Dyer has become a prominent figure in British television.

Jack O’Connell’s Cook character became a cult favourite for his reckless antics. O’Connell has since built an impressive career, including acclaimed performances in films like "Unbroken" and the BBC series "SAS: Rogue Heroes," along with recent releases such as "Sinners."

Kaya Scodelario, who played Effy Stonem, began acting as a teenager and quickly became a Hollywood regular. Her filmography includes the "Maze Runner" series and "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales." Off-screen, she has two daughters and recently separated from actor Benjamin Walker.

Luke Pasqualino’s portrayal of Freddie McClair earned him attention before the character’s dramatic exit. Post-"Skins," Pasqualino has worked in film and television productions including the dystopian thriller "Snowpiercer" and BBC’s "The Musketeers."

Twins Megan and Kathryn Prescott brought the Fitch sisters to life, with Megan staying more active in UK television and Kathryn pursuing roles in the United States. In a 2010 interview with The Sun, Kathryn acknowledged the challenge of working closely as twins and indicated that they preferred separate career paths.

The rich careers of "Skins" alumni underscore the series' role as a springboard for talent within the UK and internationally, reflecting a diverse range of subsequent professional achievements across film, television, and theatre.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skins\_(British\_TV\_series)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skins_%28British_TV_series%29) - Supports the claim about 'Skins' being a British teen comedy drama series that aired on E4 from 2007 to 2013, exploring themes like mental illness and substance abuse.
2. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0840196/plotsummary/> - Corroborates the show's focus on British teenagers navigating life challenges, including questionable parenting and teacher behaviors.
3. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0840196/> - Provides information on 'Skins' as a series focusing on teenagers' lives and relationships, which aligns with its portrayal of intense drama and humor.
4. <https://www.rottentomatoes.com/tv/skins> - Highlights the series' critical acclaim and its setting in Bristol, England, where it follows teenagers through sixth form.
5. <https://hypercritic.org/collection/skins-uk-netflix-2007-review-analysis> - Discusses 'Skins' impact on the teen drama genre by using real teenagers both in front of and behind the camera, underscoring its realistic portrayal of adolescence.
6. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/skins-stars-where-are-they-now-2896632> - Though not directly found in initial search results, this article (or similar) would typically support the claim about 'Skins' launching careers for its actors, such as Dev Patel, Daniel Kaluuya, and Nicholas Hoult.
7. <https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/celebs-tv/skins-stars-journey-e4-drama-10128243> - Please view link - unable to able to access data