

Critic: Brandon Judell

Fifteen-year-old Tim (Desmond Devenish) is still in recovery mode after discovering his mother's corpse. His dad Ben (Jeff Paul), a manic, liquor-guzzling Ray Liotta clone, probably drove his wife to suicide through abuse. Now this two-member family unit has relocated to upstate New York to start anew.

Feeling isolated and jumpy, while drifting back and forth from his ending boyhood to his sexual maturation, Tim doesn't know what to grasp onto for a sense of security or a sprig of hope. Photos of his mother, though comforting, seem to only add to his desolation; conversely, porn mags read on the sly only supply a momentary release.

Then one night, after Ben, now a cop, really loses it, Tim escapes into the woods, not unlike some gawky male Goldilocks. He comes upon a plush summer house, breaks his way in, and starts exploring the residents' personal effects--from their music cassettes to the drugs in their medicine cabinet.

But in the bedroom of Tracy, a young woman just a few years his elder, Tim discovers a fantasy life. He smells her clothing, tries them on, watches her homemade video tapes, reads her books. The lad's in love as he falls asleep in her bed.

Tracy, meanwhile, pregnant by a professor, is leaving college. But she can't confront her parents yet, so why not pull herself together first in the family's summer home?

What follows is murder, both intentional and unexpected.

Hall never once delivers what you'd expect. With a script that's a superb psychological study of teens in turmoil, and an actor, Devenish, to make you believe in his adolescent dilemmas, "Delinquent" is both disturbing and entertaining, a terrific mix for any rainy Saturday night.

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/SCREENWRITER: Peter Hall (Big Bad Productions)

CAST: Desmond Devenish, Shawn Batten, Jeff Paul, Marisa Townshend, Ian Eaton, Melissa Chalsma, Donald Christopher, Maraya Chase, Olga Matlin, Peter Hall

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS: Eli Kabillio, Marisa Townshend

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Eric A. Marano

CASTING DIRECTOR: Maureen Fremont

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Todd Crockett

EDITOR: Thom Zimny

MUSICAL SCORE: Gang of Four

LOCATION SOUND: Juan Rodriguez

GENRE: Drama - NR - 1:24

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