



BULLHEAD (rUNDSKOP)

Spring
Season
2013

Release: 2011

Cert (UK):15

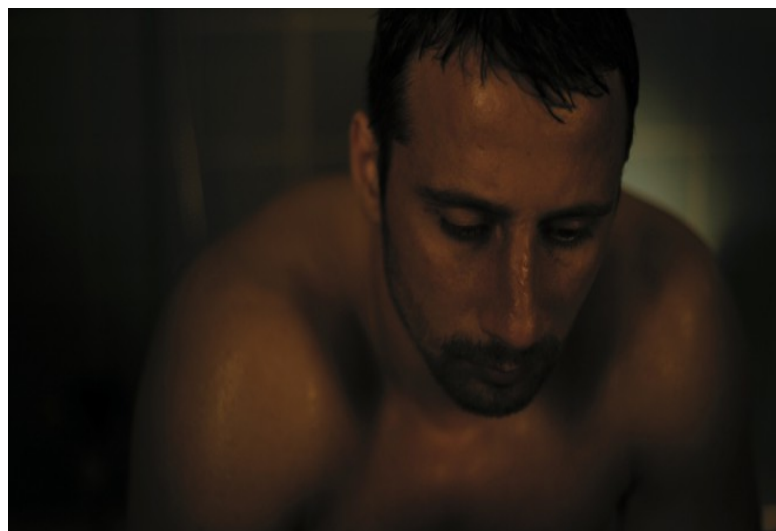
Runtime: 124 mins

Director: Michael R Roskam

Language: Belgian with English subtitles

Cast: Matthias Schoenaerts, Jeroen Perceval, Jeanne Dandoy

It may have been an unexpected finalist in the 2012 Best Foreign Language Oscar category but its place was well deserved. It impresses because of the pain, sadness and rage contained in the title performance by Flemish actor Matthias Schoenaerts,



who bulked up for the role on a steroid-free diet and seems ready to burst from his clothes and even his skin.

Jacky (Schoenaerts) is a low-level Belgian farmer and criminal, who is paralyzed by fear and insecurity about his masculinity. Because he has easy access to testosterone and animal-growth hormones, he uses them to build muscle and body mass, turning him into a raging bull.

When we are informed, by a well-placed flashback, as to the origins of his pain, sadness and rage, it forces us to re-evaluate what we have seen. This dramatic and traumatising event enhances the character driven drama about the way that past events shape our lives. Bullhead is a dark, haunting and wholly original exploration of what it means to be a man.

In addition, it is also an expose of the criminal underworld of the bovine hormone mafia. Ridiculous as that may sound, Bullhead is based on an actual event.

Writer/director Michael Roskam's feature-length debut was inspired by a '90s news story about a meat inspector and vet who was killed because of his investigations into a far-reaching group of meat mobsters.

