

## W2835 WATCHMEN (USA, 2009)

**Credits:** director, Zack Snyder ; writers, David Hayter, Alex Tse ; graphic novel, Alan Moore, Dave Gibbons.

**Cast:** Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup, Matthew Goode, Jackie Earle Haley, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Patrick Wilson, Carla Gugino.

**Summary:** Science fiction/superhero film based on the graphic novel written by Alan Moore and illustrated by Dave Gibbons. Set in an alternative 1985 US governed by Richard Nixon with occasional flashbacks to prior events. Masked superheroes were a normal part of American life through the 1960s. In Vietnam, the Comedian (Morgan) wields a flame thrower and engages in ground combat operations until the radioactive blue giant Dr. Manhattan (Crudup) arrives, at the behest of President Nixon, and ends the war in a matter of weeks. A formation of surrendering Viet Cong bow down to the Dr. like a god. In a Saigon bar shortly thereafter, the Comedian is confronted by his pregnant Vietnamese mistress about the future of their unborn child and he calmly shoots her. After Vietnam, masked superheroes were forced into retirement. However, as Cold War tensions between the US and the Soviet Union begin to rise, a washed up but no less determined masked vigilante named Rorschach (Haley) discovers a plot to kill and discredit all past and present superheroes. As Rorschach and his small group of retired superheroes investigate, they discover a deeper conspiracy with links to their shared past and catastrophic consequences for the future.

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