

« [Coming to America \(1988\)](#)- \*\*



## [I Think We're Alone Now \(2008\)](#)- \*\*

October 27, 2010



**Directed by Sean Donnelly**

Written by Sean Donnelly

Documentary featuring Jeff Turner, Kelly McCormick, Tiffany

Unrated, 64 minutes

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*I Think We're Alone Now* is a relatively short documentary about two mentally unhealthy people who are both obsessed with the former teen pop princess Tiffany. Her hits included the cover of the Tommy James and the Shondells song the film takes its title from and "Could've Been", to name a few. She was huge in 1987, roughly around the same time New Kids on the Block and Debbie Gibson were finding chart success.

Jeff Turner, almost unbelievably normal in comparison with the other subject, is a 58-year-old who has Asperger's Syndrome. He's a rather paranoid guy with some serious delusions, the main one being that he and Tiffany are dear friends. We see from a newspaper clipping he has that he got in some trouble for stalking Tiffany early on in her career. His problems go far beyond any Asperger's, and he scares the shit out of me.

Kelly McCormick is a transgender male-to-female barely-functioning mess with an apparent alcohol problem.

Self-medication seems a natural by-product of this woman. She too is delusional, showing us pictures of himself in high school, painfully odd even then, complete with crazed expressions even then, and Kelly explains that she was the most popular person in her high school. You can see that the deep unhappiness and mental illness she is experiencing are taking their toll. Only 31, she looks tired and older.

The filmmaker brings the two together, and while not really stated, you can tell that each of them kind of weirds out the other. I felt sympathy for both.

It isn't a pleasant experience. I don't really know what to think of it. Just because mental health problems take the form of, on the surface, a kitschy obsession with a long-faded pop star doesn't mean that this was a good idea for a documentary. It feels exploitative. And yet, it treats the subjects fairly, allows them to express their thoughts and views, and doesn't make any cheap shots aside from featuring them in the first place. Still, I'm not enthusiastic.

It is just really uncomfortable. At the end, Turner has moved on from Tiffany to his new obsession, Alyssa Milano. I'm sure he's got a lot of company in that one- she is hot. Kelly McCormick, while seemingly more unhealthy than Jeff also shows the capacity for more improvement and I hope that she will eventually get any help she needs and find some balance of peace and medication. I can't imagine the transgender trip being an easy one.

As for Tiffany, I have a whole lot more empathy for her than I ever have previous. The film provides insight into just how obsessive fans can be, and how scary it must be for some of the stars. Even though her popularity has waned significantly in her adulthood, she is still a performer. I hope she can still afford decent security, you know? Jeezus.

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