REEFER MADNESS: ORIGINS

SYNOPSIS

1930s America. Commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics Harry J. Anslinger faces deep inner turmoil. Prohibition is over, his country is once again under the influence of alcohol, and faces the worst economic depression in the history of the world.



Swarms of unemployed citizens scatter the streets. They seek refuge from these terrible times by any means necessary - tobacco, alcohol, opium. Joining this list of American consumables is a newly declared evil... A "Mexican weed with roots in hell" known as "MARIJUANA" that is used by various people of colour in the U.S. Aided by the resources of the best ad man in the state of Louisiana Anslinger aims to taint the view of the drug by association to what Americans hate most: coloureds, immigrants, and the devil himself.

Not only does he want people to turn away from the plant, he needs them to utterly fear it. Marijuana is spreading rapidly through the country prompting Anslinger to seek help from sources in the field. In a covert sting operation in Louisiana, he will require former WW1 black veteran Gary O'Neill to investigate members of the Jazz community and destroy the source of trafficking. Changing the public's opinion will require the help of John and Jane, anti-drug Christian activists who will lead the creation of marijuana propaganda.

The plan is convoluted, dirty, and racist—the perfect mix for effective change in the U.S. Ignorant to Anslinger's true agenda, O'Neill and John & Jane are made to believe they are doing God's work on earth; but Anslinger's unholy alliance will prove to sow nothing but greed and madness in the ever-decaying land of the free.