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Empty nitrous cartridges strewn about, while a half naked man spouts lunatic verses at voices in his head. This scenario is familiar, yet foreign to me. Steve-O, a man that America came to know and love as the crazy stunt-kid on *Jackass*, has finally hit rock bottom and is ready to rise from the ashes. The film “Steve-O – Demise and Rise” is an eye opening and heart wrenching film that I found educational and entertaining. Since Steve-O loved being on camera constantly, this film has aspects that most other rehab films do not: the whole story-from normalcy to extreme addiction and back to a stable state.

Steve-O’s first taste of addiction, so to speak, was at the age of twelve when he drank so much alcohol from his parents’ liquor cabinet, he vomited. I remember the first time I vomited from alcohol consumption (I was sixteen) and I recognize there was a downward trend from then on out. Luckily, I have never been as enveloped in addiction as Steve-O. I do believe that being pre-disposed to certain addictions definitely has an effect on your psyche, but starting to use those addictive substances at a young age definitely creates even more problems.

Having Dr. Drew speak occasionally was a good way to bring an aspect of maturity to the film. I found it interesting when he stated that addicts tend to be thrill seekers. I believe this is due to their inability to feel certain emotions and pain after reaching a height of intoxication. After watching all the stunts that Steve-O has done, it’s a wonder he is still alive.

After building up this insane character that does asinine stunts and consumes copious amounts of narcotics on a daily basis, Steve-O felt he had to live up to his party-animal title and delved deeper into his addiction. It was shocking to witness his behavioral changes through the

lens of the camera. I liked how Steve-O exhibited signs of being human. Often people think celebrities are perfect, but we are all human and it was refreshing to see that Steve-O felt the necessity to belong. The film points out that after the filming of his two shows and the film *Jackass 2* Steve-O needed the concept of a family and that's when he completely turned his life over to drugs and alcohol. Everyone needs to be loved by someone, or in this case, something.

I have always heard that rehab never works when the rehabee doesn't fully give them self to the concept. This film just solidifies that idea. It was nice to hear that Steve-O had an epiphany leading him to believe that by giving sober a chance he could do a lot of good in the world. Later he realizes that being sober was something good that he could do for himself, not for the world. That is a concept that many addicts struggle with and it is a huge milestone.

At one point Steve-O says that skateboarding has kept him sane in his battle against addiction and I can definitely relate. Roller derby helps keep me sane. It helps me keep my mind off alcohol, as well as keeping me active, which in turn also helps curb my appetite for alcohol. This documentary was interesting and informative and a great tool for teaching the youth of our generation the effects of substance abuse.