



DRAWING DEAD

THE HIGHS & LOWS OF ONLINE POKER



A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY MIKE WEEKS

THE STORY OF ONLINE POKER FROM TWO VERY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES: AN ONLINE PRO WORTH MILLIONS, AND A GAMBLING ADDICT.

A BREAD BAG BOOT PRODUCTION "DRAWING DEAD" DIRECTED, PRODUCED, AND WRITTEN BY MIKE WEEKS EDITED BY JAY CORNELIUS
STARRING DUSTY SCHMIDT & MICHAEL KORPI JR ANIMATIONS BY JEANETTE BONDS TRAILER BY GABE GOLDSTEIN
MUSIC BY TANYA MORGAN MEERENIA SHIM & RACHEL TURNER HOUK COMPOSED BY NOAH LUNA

NR NOT RATED THIS FILM HAS NOT YET BEEN RATED

www.DrawingDeadPokerDoc.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

LOGLINE

Drawing Dead is a documentary film about the highs and lows of online poker from two very different perspectives: a professional poker player worth millions, and a gambling addict.



SYNOPSIS

Michael Korpi Jr. had it all. Straight A's, star athlete, talented musician, but his weakness for online poker derailed his life. Now he's walking across the country with his two dogs Blackjack and Buddy, in an effort to raise awareness for problem gambling.

Dusty Schmidt was once known as one of the top amateur golfers in southern California before a heart attack at age 23 took him off the golf course, and put him in front of a computer screen. Four million dollars later, he is regarded as one of the world's best online poker players.



Poker was once a blue collar game played in smokey back rooms over green felt tables, until a chubby accountant from Tennessee shocked the world by turning a \$39 buy in on an online poker site, into a \$2.5 million dollar first prize at the 2003 World Series of Poker. Over the next few years the entire world learned the game of No Limit Texas Hold 'Em.

If you watched the poker boom on TV like the rest of us, it seemed like everyone was getting rich. Some were, but the fundamental rule of any game involving chance: in order for one to win, another must lose. The truth behind the hype is that there is a dark side to this game, one that you won't see on ESPN.

From the Poker Boom of 2003 to "Black Friday", April 15th 2011, when the US Department of Justice shut down online poker, *Drawing Dead* follows the lives of two players, Michael and Dusty, as they deal with the highs and the lows of America's future favorite pastime, online poker.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

My name is Mike Weeks, and I am an accidental filmmaker.

I never went to film school, in fact I was a business major. The only reason I studied in marketing was because it seemed easier and less boring than economics or accounting. How I decided to make a film in the first place is an interesting story in its own.

Poker has always been a part of my life.



Instead of playing catch in the backyard, bonding time with my father consisted of playing penny ante poker while he watched the nightly news. In high school I hosted a weekly game that attracted every high school social group. It was the only place in town where you could find someone in the marching band sitting next to a jock sitting next to a computer nerd sitting next to a druggie.

When I was 21, I watched Chris MoneyMaker, a chubby accountant and amateur poker player, turn a \$39 buy-in on an online poker site into a \$2.5 million dollar first prize and the title "World Champion of Poker". I, along with the rest of the world, fell in love with online poker. Where else can you potentially become a millionaire overnight? The lottery is a pipe dream. If this guy, in all his remarkable un-remarkableness can do it, so can I.

As the fifth child of a single working class mother who was waist deep in student loans, online poker helped me pay my way through my first semester of college, it helped me maintain a standard of living close to that of my peers, and it gave me the ability to buy lots of shit I didn't need.

Poker also destroyed the perception I had for the value of a dollar.

11/29 Pokerstars.com	49.90
11/29 Pokerstars.com	49.98
11/29 Pokerstars.com	49.96
11/29 Pokerstars.com	49.95
11/29 Pokerstars.com	49.94
11/29 Pokerstars.com	49.94
11/28 Pokerstars.com	49.94
11/29 Pokerstars.com	65.96
11/29 Pokerstars.com	64.00
12/01 Lt*Life Time MO Due 888-430-643	49.99
12/01 Lt*Life Time MO Due 888-430-643	49.98
12/01 Lt*Life Time MO Due 888-430-643	49.98
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After months of playing online, winning started to become more difficult as the rest of the poker world caught up to my level of 'poker skill'. The ups and downs of the game shot me into a downward spiral of degenerate behavior. **I was becoming addicted.** Unemployed and living in a friend's attic, I now turned to online poker as an escape. I learned how to take out "cash advances" on credit cards. I learned that a bank can charge you an overdraft fee on top of a low balance fee. I gambled away everything I earned, and not only found myself at the cusp of financial ruin, but found myself in the same pair of sweatpants for a week straight.

Life is funny. It takes a long time to climb yourself out of a hole, but going back to the bottom takes seconds. One bad decision, one lapse of judgment can cause years of clawing your way back to even. My life would eventually rebound with a few lucky swings. Not at the poker table but in corporate retail. I quit playing online poker and re-focused on my career.

After some time, I realized it wasn't the game of poker itself that sucked me in, I still to this day love playing live poker. It was the convenience and the speed of the online version of the game that really led to my self-destructive habits.

To this day I have to laugh every time I see poker on TV. **Everyone is a rags to riches story, right? Right.**

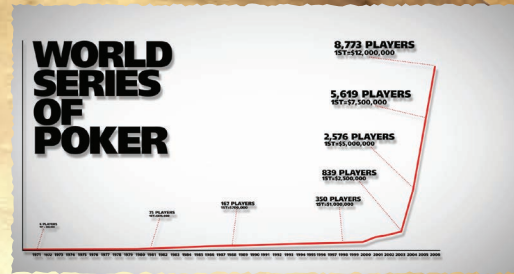
I get it though, it's definitely a good business model. The rags to riches narrative brings players to the sites, the sites morph into huge companies who in turn sponsor some of its most charismatic players. The TV networks create the *poker celebrity*, the Internet makes access easy, and a card game becomes a \$6 billion dollar industry in under a decade.

"Come to whateverpokersite.com, deposit \$50, and YOU can become a millionaire TOO!".

If everyone is winning...where are the losers?
The money has to come from somewhere...right? This is why I decided to make DRAWING DEAD.

I'm tired of seeing only one side of the poker world, so I made a short film showing both sides: the highs AND the lows.

The short film gained momentum on Youtube and created an international dialogue on poker forums across the globe debating moral greyness of the game. I decided to start a kickstarter.com campaign to raise funds to create a full-length version.



DRAWING DEAD attempts to expose the world of online poker by examining the extremes of the game. Most players reside somewhere in between Michael and Dusty, but only by hearing their stories can we truly understand the swings of the game. While they may seem extreme, many online poker players have experienced parts of both Michael and Dusty's story. I know I have.

Being my first film, my hope is to get DRAWING DEAD in front of as many people as possible. Whether you are a poker player or not, there is something in this story for everyone. In fact, at its core, its really not just a story about poker. **It's a story about wasted talent.**

If you happen to be a program director for a festival, a distributor, a member of the press, or just a film lover, you may be wondering why you should even give a no name first time filmmaker's project a chance?

Here are a few reasons:

REASON #1: IT HAS AN AUDIENCE ALREADY

As of July 2013, Drawing Dead (Poker Documentary) the short, has been viewed about 400,000 times on Youtube. The dialogue the short has created is humbling and fascinating all at the same time. Google 'Drawing Dead Poker Documentary' and you will see what I am talking about.

REASON #2: ONLINE POKER WILL BE IN THE HEADLINES IN 2013

Just as online poker made headlines internationally in 2011, the same will happen again in 2013. Why? Two things have happened since Black Friday that signal a resurgence of the online poker debate between US lawmakers:

1. The US Department of Justice changed their position on the Wire Act of 1963, stating it NO LONGER applies to online poker.
2. A Judge in the Federal District Court in Brooklyn, ruled that poker is a game of SKILL, not chance. Therefore laws governing games of CHANCE (like most casino games, slots, the lottery) DO NOT APPLY.



These two events, coupled with the government's dire need for new sources of revenue, will collide in 2013 with two bills currently circulating congress to legalize, tax, and regulate online poker. The big networks WILL cover this story, further raising the relevancy of DRAWING DEAD.

REASON #3: JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE, BEN AFFLECK, and LEONARDO DiCAPRIO

For anyone that doesn't hear about online poker from the major news networks, they will hear about it from hollywood. In October 2013, Regency Films and 20th Century Fox, will be releasing a film entitled "Runner, Runner" produced by Leonardo DiCaprio and starring Justin Timberlake and Ben Affleck. The film centers around Richie Furst (Timberlake), who plays a Princeton student cheated out of his tuition money while playing online poker. When he learns that the site is hosted from a remote island location, he goes to confront the site's corrupt owner, Ivan Block (Affleck), but is lured into becoming Ivan's protégé and right-hand man. Their relationship starts to reach a boiling point all while an FBI agent tries to use Richie to bring Ivan down. If this doesn't elevate the publics curiosity about online poker, nothing will.

MIKE WEEKS

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER, DRAWING DEAD

CREW



MIKE WEEKS, DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER

Drawing Dead is Mike's first attempt at filmmaking. His nine to five is spent as a product manager for a major sportswear brand, but making a documentary was always on his "bucket list". Mike was an avid poker player in his past and became tired of the misconceptions portrayed about the poker world. He sought to shed light on the reality of the game he loves and still plays to this day. Mike holds a degree in marketing from Miami University in Oxford, OH, and currently lives in Portland, Oregon.



JAY CORNELIUS, EDITOR

Jay has worked in television and film production for 15 years as a producer, director of photography and editor. He has edited and shot shows for National Geographic, The History Channel, A&E, PBS, HGTV, Discovery-Times Channel, and the Outdoor Life Network. Jay specializes in not specializing. He has produced/shot/edited documentaries, commercials, music videos, feature films, corporate services, even directing live sporting events. He is also on the part-time faculty at the Art Institute of Portland and Mt. Hood Community College.



NOAH LUNA, COMPOSER

Noah is an active member of the concert music community as both a frequently-commissioned composer, and as production-assistant, copyist, pre-press engraver for distinguished composers Mason Bates and Jack Perla. Most recently, he served as orchestrator, under the music direction of David Rosenthal, for a PBS Special featuring child prodigy Ethan Bortnick and the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. Luna holds a Masters Degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as a member of Conrad Susa's composition studio.



JEANETTE BONDS, ANIMATOR

Jeanette is an animator/director/video artist currently living in Los Angeles. She received her Bachelor's degree from California Institute of the Arts in Experimental Animation. She received her Master's of Fine Arts at California Institute of the Arts in Experimental Animation with an additional supplemental concentration in Integrated Media. She creates 2D animated films, video projections, and large scale video installations.

CAST



DUSTY "LEATHERASS" SCHMIDT

A consummate "grinder," Dusty "Leatherass" Schmidt has played nearly 9 million hands of online poker over his six-year career. In December 2009, Schmidt released his first book, *Treat Your Poker Like A Business*, which quickly became an international sensation. Today the book has been published in eight languages, with a sequel currently in the works. In 2007, he achieved PokerStars' SuperNova Elite status in just eight months while playing high-stakes cash games exclusively. Schmidt posted the world's highest win rate in both \$5/\$10 NL and \$10/\$20 NL in both 2007 and 2008.

As a young man, Schmidt was a top-ranked golfer. He broke two of Tiger Woods' junior records, and was the leading money winner on the Golden States Tour when, at age 23, he suffered a career-ending heart attack. Schmidt returned to golf in 2009, winning medalist honors in qualifying for the Oregon Amateur Championship. Later that year, Schmidt famously represented himself in federal court in his suit against the United States Golf Association, which controversially stripped him of his amateur status, in part due to his poker profession. Using Youtube.com, he wagered \$1,000,000 and challenged anyone in the world to beat him at both poker & golf. His story has been featured in Sports Illustrated, Card Player, Poker News, Golf Magazine, Fairways and Greens, Golf Week, Golf World and the Portland Oregonian, as well as on ESPN, cnn.com, wallstreetjournal.com, forbes.com, fortune.com, espn.com, golfdigest.com and golf.com, among many others. He recently founded the House of Cards Project, a philanthropic effort to provide food and shelter to disadvantaged families. He lives in Portland, Ore., with his wife, Nicole, and daughter, Lennon.



MICHAEL KORPI JR.

Michael Korpi Jr is a violinist from Seattle, Washington. In 2012, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Whitworth University, where he was a winner in the school's concerto competitions of 2008 and 2010. Prior education includes a semester at Davidson College, and a high school summer college program at Stanford University. In high school, he was concertmaster of the orchestra and captain of the swim team.

Michael started taking violin lessons at the age of five. Today, his favorite composers include classical greats like Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven, but he also enjoys creative live looping with his electric violin and a loop pedal.

He aspires to effect positive change through musical performance. Michael played poker for six years, but his last bet was on April 28, 2010.



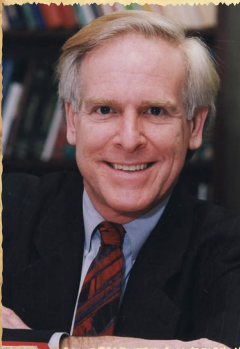
HENRY LESIEUR PsyD, PhD, NCGC

Dr. Lesieur is a licensed clinical psychologist and a nationally certified gambling counselor. Lesieur has been involved with problem gambling and addictions for over 30 years, first as an internationally recognized researcher, and, more recently, as a therapist. He has published a book, *The Chase: Career of the Compulsive Gambler*. He founded the *Journal of Gambling Studies* and has edited it for 12 years. An instrument that Lesieur developed, the South Oaks Gambling Screen, is in use on six continents and has been translated into more than 35 languages. He has spoken on pathological gambling and has trained other therapists on how to screen, assess, and treat pathological gamblers in 15 states, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, Australia, and New Zealand. He has also been a consultant on legal issues related to pathological gambling in several state courts, federal court, and the Ontario provincial court.



DAVID J. LINDEN Ph.D

David J. Linden, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His laboratory has worked for many years on the cellular substrates of memory storage in the brain and a few other topics. He has a longstanding interest in scientific communication and serves as the Chief Editor of the *Journal of Neurophysiology*. He is the author of two books on the biology of behavior for a general audience, *The Accidental Mind* and *The Compass of Pleasure* which, to date, have been translated into 14 languages. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland with his two children.



PROFESSOR I. NELSON ROSE

An internationally known scholar, writer and public speaker, Professor Rose is recognized as one of the world's leading experts on gaming law. A Harvard Law School graduate, he is a Professor at Whittier Law School and a Visiting Professor at the University of Macau. Prof. Rose is co-author of *INTERNET GAMING LAW*, *GAMING LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS*, and *GAMING LAW IN A NUTSHELL*, and co-editor-in-chief of the *Gaming Law Review and Economics*. He is best known for his columns and landmark 1986 book: *"GAMBLING AND THE LAW."* Prof. Rose has testified as an expert witness and acted as a consultant to governments and industry in North America, Asia and Europe. His website is www.GAMBLINGANDTHELAW.com.



JAMIE GOLD

The winner of one of the the biggest poker events in history with 8,772 players and an 87 million dollar prize pool, Jamie Gold is a World Series of Poker Main Event Champion. *Bluff Magazine* described his original table talk strategy as "transforming his play into an artform". Nicknamed "The Poker Philanthropist" by members of the media and his peers, he has helped raise over 175 million dollars for charitable causes worldwide as a host, emcee or donator at 125 events in the last 5 years. Gold currently works most closely with the World Poker Tour Foundation, the MDA, and the Global Creative Forum for the United Nations.



LON MCEACHERN

ESPN's "voice of poker", Lon McEachern, hosts all of the World Series of Poker and World Series of Poker Europe, and World Series of Poker APAC telecasts with analyst Norman Chad. He has also hosted ESPN shows of the North America Poker Tour. WSOP Circuit Championships, and the networks first live poker telecast, the PCA Main Event from the Bahamas. McEachern graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in communications. He received a Golden Mic Award for his radio work in Southern California.