

ALL IN

The Most American Addiction

A documentary by **Pedro Feria Pino / VEFILM** | 40-55 min single doc, scales to limited series

Andrew Douglas tried to kill himself over gambling debts. He survived. When he woke up in the hospital, hooked to IVs, a nurse turned on the NBA Finals and handed him back his phone. He opened FanDuel and gambled away his last hundred dollars from the bed.

This is the system working as designed.

LOGLINE

America's \$150-billion-a-year sports betting boom has a body count. The companies feeding the bonfire, FanDuel, DraftKings, Kalshi, the NFL itself, are protected by a White House that owns a piece of the game and a Congress that just had to fine its own candidates for betting on themselves. ALL IN is the story of the new American casino, the young men dying inside it, and the people getting rich off the bleeding.

THE VILLAIN ISN'T HIDING

Thompson, a Philadelphia finance executive, wagered \$22 million on FanDuel and DraftKings. He lost \$1.8 million. When the apps noticed him slowing down, a VIP host called with an "emergency": free Super Bowl tickets, hotel, party passes. He'd just decided to kill himself. He's now a named plaintiff in a March 2026 lawsuit alleging the apps are "unreasonably dangerous products intentionally designed to maximize addiction."

One in five problem gamblers attempts suicide, the highest rate of any addiction. Half of all American men between 18 and 49 have an active sports betting account.

THE FIX IS IN

- **WHITE HOUSE:** Donald Trump Jr. is a paid advisor to Kalshi and an investor in Polymarket, the two biggest prediction markets in the country, where you can bet on elections, wars, and assassinations.
- **CONGRESS:** In April 2026 the Senate had to unanimously ban its own members from trading on these platforms after Kalshi caught three congressional candidates betting on their own races.
- **LEAGUES:** The NFL is the largest shareholder in Genius Sports, the data company that powers the microbets ruining lives. Every league sold its data to the books.
- **MILITARY:** A Special Forces sergeant was arrested for allegedly using classified intel about the Maduro capture mission to win \$410,000 on Polymarket.

WHY NOW

This story breaks open this month.

- **May 20:** Senate Commerce holds its first formal hearing on sports betting and prediction markets.
- **May 29:** Ten gambling companies (DraftKings, FanDuel, Kalshi, Polymarket, BetMGM, Caesars, Fanatics, PrizePicks, Robinhood, bet365) must turn over their youth-marketing data to Congress.

WHO THIS FILM FOLLOWS

- **The survivors:** Andrew Douglas, suicide survivor, on the record with Rolling Stone and CBS. Thompson, the Philadelphia exec who lost \$1.8 million on FanDuel and DraftKings, named plaintiff in the March 2026 PHAI lawsuit. Recovered gamblers in treatment programs nationwide.
- **The anchor:** Harry Levant. Disbarred lawyer, recovered gambler, now the leading public-health voice in America on this. Forty weeks a year testifying to state legislatures. The closest thing this story has to a Jeffrey Wigand.
- **The fight:** Sen. Chris Murphy and the BETS OFF Act. Sen. Richard Blumenthal. Public Health Advocacy Institute. Rep. Paul Tonko. British parents leading the UK Parliament Young Adults Reports campaign.
- **The defectors:** Former VIP hosts and account managers from FanDuel and DraftKings, several named in active lawsuit filings. The people who made the late-night phone calls when a customer tried to walk away.

HOW IT LOOKS

The phone is the antagonist. We shoot it like one. Blue screen-glow on faces in dark rooms. Vertical compositions inside the apps, designed to feel like the slot-machine dopamine loop they actually are. Anamorphic, Kodachrome-leaning palette for the world outside the addiction. Verite in the recovery rooms. The whole movie is built around the contrast between the engineered intimacy of the screen and the very real bodies it's been chewing through.

Touchstones: The Social Dilemma's structural urgency. Crime of the Century's institutional rage. All the Beauty and the Bloodshed's restraint.

FILMMAKER

Pedro Feria Pino is a Brooklyn-based DP and SOC Camera Operator with 20+ years across Netflix, Disney, VICE, MTV, VH1, ABC News, and Hearst. Co-creator and Camera Operator/Producer on MTV's Washington Heights. Supervising Producer on Love & Hip Hop. Founder of VEFILM.

THE ASK

- **What I bring:** The story. The visual approach. 20+ years of cinematography across unscripted, documentary, and narrative. I shoot this as DP.
- **What I'm looking for:** A producer to develop and run this with me. Co-Creator and Executive Producer credit. Open on director.

CONTACT

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