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## **Gambling In The Movies**

**By Kenneth Bateman**

The September, 2006, release of Hollywood's latest poker themed movie, "Lucky You" starring Eric

Bana and Drew Barrymore continues a decades-long love affair between gambling and the movies. Gambling has long fascinated the movie-going public, and many fans of this genre enjoy the thrill of watching big stakes gambling without any risk to their own bankrolls. As an example, the following is a brief description of a few films based on this theme:

1922: Dr. Mabuse - Der Spieler ( "The Gambler" )

One of the earliest films to incorporate high stakes gambling in the storyline, the film centers around arch-criminal Dr. Mabuse, a counterfeiter, hypnotist, master of disguise and card shark. At the gaming tables, Dr. Mabuse reaps a fortune in card play by using his intense hypnotic powers to manipulate wealthy players into seeing cards that don't exist, and to make choices guaranteed to ruin their game.

Under the guidance of acclaimed German film director Fritz Lang, this movie has gained recognition as one of the most important and influential films of the silent movie era.

1961: The Hustler

Paul Newman, George C. Scott, Piper Laurie, Jackie Gleason: An unforgettable performance by Paul Newman as "fast" Eddy Felson, a drifter and pool hall hustler, who is manipulated by sleazy manager Scott into a high stakes match with the legendary pool shark Minnesota Fats, ( Gleason ).

Although this gambling-themed movie is about pool, poker players will recognize the similarities in strategy; the importance of body language (known in poker jargon as a "tell"), holding back the sweat, the look of confidence, etc.

1965: THE CINCINNATI KID

Steve McQueen, Edward G. Robinson, Karl Malden, Joan Blondell, Tuesday Weld: Steve McQueen gives a great performance as an itinerant card shark traveling from one big game to another. The

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climactic poker game between McQueen and Robinson is the film's highlight.

### 1966: A BIG HAND FOR THE LITTLE LADY

Henry Fonda, Joanne Woodward, Jason Robards Jr., Burgess Meredith: Fonda and wife Woodward arrive in Laredo during an annual high-stakes poker game. Hoping for a windfall, Fonda decides to risk the couple's savings and joins the game. Henry is on a big losing streak and in danger of busting out when "the little lady" comes to his rescue at the table.

### 1973: THE STING

Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Robert Shaw: Newman and Redford are two small time con men operating in and around Chicago in the mid-1930s. A big stakes card game takes place as the duo try to put "the sting" on mobster Shaw.

### 1974: CALIFORNIA SPLIT

George Segal, Elliot Gould: Gould and Segal are two compulsive gamblers with strange lifestyles. This is an entertaining, compelling and powerful film that captures poker parlor habitués down on their luck and hoping for a reprieve, The title of the film is western-slang jargon for cutthroat poker.

Kenneth Bateman writes numerous articles on the subject of online casinos. To read more of his articles on the

<http://www.21-online-casinos.com>

## **Online Gambling – Keep Control**

### **By Adel Awwad**

Gambling can be addictive no matter where you are doing it – at a land casino, playing the lottery or at an online casino. Sometimes it is easier to get carried away at an online casino than at a regular land casino because you aren't actually handling money or chips, your money is all digitally displayed. Further, money can go fast when you are having fun.

As it is with all gambling, it is important to keep control when you are gambling at an online casino. By keeping track of your credits and cash and setting yourself honest limits that you adhere to, online gambling won't be a problem for you. Further, by setting limits on yourself for how much money you are willing to gamble and lose, you can keep control of your online gambling habits and make it a fun experience as it was meant to be. Gambling can be a lot of fun, a real adrenaline rush—especially when you are winning. There is an adrenaline rush when you are losing too, and that's when online gambling can get out of control and before you know it, you've spent much too much money, much more than you intended to gamble away. There are other precautions you can also take such as watching your drinking, not playing when you are tired and setting a time limit on each gambling session.

## Gambling In The Movies

If you think you have a gambling problem, then please contact your local gambler's anonymous help group and get some help. It is so important not to let gambling run or ruin your life. "Just one more twenty/hundred/thousand dollars" is never something you should say more than you can afford to. Watch and keep track of what you are doing, how much money you are inputting into an online casino and keep the game and gambling experience fun for you and everyone.

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