

A close-up of a child's face, focusing on the eyes and nose. The face is partially obscured by a vibrant, abstract pattern of swirling colors, including red, orange, yellow, and purple, which appears to be a digital overlay or a close-up of a textured surface. The overall tone is warm and artistic.

# KID GAMBLER

A Film by Alex Familian



## **LOGLINE**

Don't be a little bitch.







## **LOG LINE**

A stoned, anxiety-stricken teenager wobbles through the aisles of a Las Vegas convenience store with the aim to steal some beer—all to impress his hooligan friends and a girl that he likes.



# SYNOPSIS

Las Vegas is an unforgiving town – especially for a socially awkward teenager. Such is JAY's lot in life, and he's determined to overcome his prudent ways and gain acceptance amongst the daring teen-elite. The story opens on our protagonist – stoned and panic-ridden – as he reluctantly agrees to steal beer from a gas station convenience store. The idea was by no means his own, but that of his two hooligan friends, THE HOMIE and SHUT YER MOUTH. Theft pits itself against every fiber of Jay's being. But if he can win the affection of THE TEENAGE GIRL he likes, it will be well worth the risk.

Through Jay's eyes we experience the mundane store aisles as they devolve into hallucinatory visions. The rosy face of Jay's crush emerges nonsensically amongst the beer cases; his mind drifts to her, yearning. A child shrieks; slot machines resounds. Stimulants overwhelm and Jay disappears within his mind's eye to a neon-lit void, lined with video poker machines. What began for the teen as a simple game of theft has quickly devolved into a psychedelic nightmare, pitting the euphoria of acceptance against the fear of self-betrayal.

As Jay enters the void, an eccentric REPAIR MAN appears before him and offers some cryptic words of advice. This is a world where you have to create your own luck; where chance and fate will do nothing but muddle your mind. There's no time like the present to learn this hard truth: however demoralizing, it will help you survive.

At once, Jay finds the courage to steal the beer. We watch him flee the store, beer in hand, desperate to escape in his friend's car. But they've locked the doors and laugh at his pathetic struggles. Was this just a big joke? Once inside, Jay can at last bask in the girl's warmth. She's impressed and a bit smitten; perhaps he's succeeded! But this doesn't last for long... she quickly returns to her gang, poking fun at Jay along with them.

This is a simple narrative – but one rich with the complexities inherent to a teenager's world. Beneath every friendship, every experience, lies deep-seeded currents of insecurity, doubt, exhilaration, and love. As adults, we often dismiss these ostensible trivialities as a right of passage to which we'll look back with bemused confusion. Rarely do we remember the very real complexities and social dynamics that govern a teen's life. It's a potent time – as powerful as the adult experience, in its own sort of way. Kid Gambled mines this emotional world with insight and depth, shedding light upon the dynamic teenage existence.



### **JACOB MELTON** (*JAY // Lead Actor*)

Jacob Melton is a teen actor for film & TV, best known for his roles on the Nickelodeon and ABC Networks. Jacob cultivated a love for acting at a young age, performing in local theater productions directed by Broadway musical actor, Patrick Cassidy. At the age of 10 he made his professional film acting debut and has since been named one of the “Most Popular People Born in 2001” by IMDb. Jacob is known for his starring role as the ironic Feeney in Amazon Studio TV pilot, **Table 58**; love interest Marcus Flutie in the **Debby Ryan** exec. produced feature, **Jessica Darling’s It List**; and recurring roles in Nickelodeon’s **Who’s Giggling Now?** and **100 Things to do Before High School**. Amongst others, he has co-starred in ABC’s **The Middle, Blackish, The Real O’Neals**, and Amazon’s **Bosch**, and made his film festival debut at **SXSW 2016**, where he starred in the award-winning short film, **Where You Are** (2016). In his free time, Jacob is an avid video gamer and horseback rider. He is represented by the Abrams Artist Agency in West Hollywood and managed by Susan Curtis, Curtis Talent Management in Beverly Hills.



### **FRED MELAMED** (*THE REPAIR MAN // Supporting Cast*)

Highly gifted, imposing character actor Fred Melamed was born in New York City. He received his theatrical training at the **Yale School of Drama**, where he was a Samuel F. B. Mores College Graduate Fellow. In 1983, he made his Broadway debut in the **Tony Award-Winning Amadeus**.

On television currently, Melamed headlines with **Maria Bamford** on the **Golden Globe nominated** hit Netflix series, **Lady Dynamite**, from **Mitch Hurwitz** and **Pam Brady**. He recurs as errant father Charles Cole on Hulu’s **Golden Globe-nominated Casual**, patrician chick-magnet J. Cronkite Valley Forge on **New Girl**, sportscasting legend Glen Klose on **Now We’re Talking**, and Sir Patrick Stewart’s messed-up psychiatrist Dr. Mendelson on Starz’ **Blunt Talk**. In the past, Melamed held major roles in television shows including **House of Lies, Girls, Married, Children’s Hospital, Curb Your Enthusiasm, The Good Wife & The Crazy Ones**.

In film, Melamed has had a long association with **4-time Oscar Winner Woody Allen**. He has appeared in 7 Allen films, including the Oscar-Winning **Hannah and Her Sisters, Another Woman, Crimes and Misdemeanors, Radio Days, Husbands & Wives, Hollywood Ending**, and **Shadows and Fog**.

But it was for his portrayal of “sensitive” villain Sy Ableman, in **Joel and Ethan Coen’s A Serious Man**, nominated for Best Picture at the 2010 Academy Awards, that Melamed became most widely known. For his performance, he won the Independent Spirit Robert Altman Award, New York Magazine listed his as among the Best Performances of The Decade, and Empire called Sy Ableman “One of The Best Coen Bros. Characters of All Time.” Melamed appeared on the Best Supporting Actor Oscar ballot of several American critics, including A.O. Scott of The New York Times, Roger Ebert of The Chicago Sun-Times, and Michael Phillips of The Chicago Tribune. He was named by Harry Domenico Rossi as among The 25 Greatest Screen Villains of All Time.

More recently, Melamed starred as Sam Sotto, insecure king of movie trailer voices in **Lake Bell’s “In a World...”**, a film about a father and daughter in the voiceover world. The film won the **Waldo Salt Award for Best Screenplay** at **Sundance**.

He lives with his wife and twin sons in Los Angeles.





**JACK BEGERT** (*SHUT YER MOUTH* // Supporting Cast)

Born and raised in Miami, Jack Begert cultivated a love for filmmaking at an early age. Inspired by classic films like *Life is Beautiful* and *The Third Man*, Jack would regularly make short films with his friends and family. As an actor, Jack attended the **Lee Strasberg Institute** before attending **USC School of Cinematic Arts**, where he received his BA in Film Production ('15). Since then, Jack has directed music videos for rap artists, including **Kendrick Lamar**, **YG**, **Hit-Boy**, and many others with his production company Psycho Films. He also directed **ScHoolboy Q's** three-part short film for his highly acclaimed **Blank Face LP**. Most recently, he played a major supporting role in **Malcolm Mays'** independent film **Covers**.



**CONNIE ENNIS** (*THE TEENAGE GIRL* // Supporting Cast)

Connie Ennis was born and raised in Los Angeles and spent her early years running around the **Lee Strasberg Theater Institute** where her father taught method acting. At a very early age she became infatuated with all that acting entailed; dressing up and telling stories authentically. Connie is professionally trained in Method, Meisner and Suzuki. She took part in the acting apprenticeship program at **Williamstown Theater Festival** in 2015 and is currently participating in the **Groundlings** improv troupe. She studies Film and Theater at **Columbia University** in New York and plans to pursue a career in storytelling after graduating.



**ALEX FAMILIAN** (*Writer / Director / Producer / Editor / VFX Artist*)

Alex Familian is a director from Los Angeles / Las Vegas. Long before graduating from **NYU's Tisch School of the Arts**, Alex cut his teeth making home-movies with friends and creating 3D models for fun for computer games that he played. Naturally, this has led him to make films that often combine his skills in compositing & visual effects with cinematic storytelling. Alex has worked with many artists including **Brian Wilson, Jon Bon Jovi,** and **Of Montreal**. He is also the founder of the post-production house **Neon Pig**. At this very moment, it is likely that Alex is editing and has not stepped outside in several days. Please, go bring the poor guy some coffee.



**SIMONA KESSLER** (*Producer*)

Simona is a film & video producer and graduate of **USC School of Cinematic Arts**. She presently resides in Los Angeles – but as a young child, was an adamant believer that before coming to earth, she “lived in the paint.” This integration of art & life, in its myriad and bizarre manifestations, has remained essential to Simona’s endeavors. Recently, her producing work has screened internationally at festivals including **Santa Barbara Film Fest, Fantasia Fest,** and – most notably – **SXSW**, at which four film & video works have premiered since 2015.



**ANNA ZLOKOVIC** *(Editor / Supporting Cast / Associate Producer)*

Anna is an award-winning writer and director based in Los Angeles, CA. Her films and music videos have screened internationally at festivals including **SXSW**, **Santa Barbara Int'l Film Festival**, and **Fantasia Int'l Film Festival**. Her perspective often finds itself joining the cerebral and humanistic, hanging out in a realm where a more fantastical reality meets the mundane. Besides movie-making, Anna is an expert in Jeff Buckley trivia and has an intense love for strawberries



**POWELL ROBINSON** *(DP)*

Powell Robinson started his career as a commercial Director of Photography while finishing the Film Production program at **USC School of Cinematic Arts**. Among other brands and artists, he's worked with **Malibu Rum, Monster Headphones, Brian Wilson, Justin Bieber, Fetty Wap, and LMFAO**. Always a horror film fanatic, Powell endeavored to Produce and Co-Direct his debut feature, **Bastard**, which was met with great critical acclaim. It was subsequently distributed in theaters nationwide by **After Dark Films** and on VOD by **20th Century Fox**. Since the film's completion, Powell has returned to working as a DoP while developing future scripts and directorial efforts. Amongst others, Powell's DoP work has screened at **SXSW, Los**

**DEVIN CHENEY** *(Production Designer)*

Born from the grime of suburban ennui, Devin Cheney has adopted Production Design as his medium of choice after getting super competitive with an ex girlfriend over aesthetic. Finding inspiration in the absurdity of the mundane, the fantastic worlds of Michel Gondry and Terry Gilliam, Devin strives to add a filter of faded childlike wonder and grunge to each of the projects he works on.







# Full Credits

## Starring

Jay ||| Jacob Melton  
The Repair Man ||| Fred Melamed  
Shut Yer Mouth ||| Jack Begert  
The Teenage Girl ||| Connie Ennis  
The Homie ||| Keanush Tafreshi  
  
Cashier ||| Anna Zlokovic  
Old Man ||| Sam Zeech  
MILF ||| Kim Grandusky  
Young Stud ||| Devin Cheney  
Obnoxious Child ||| Cortland Familian

Director ||| Alex Familian

Producers ||| Simona Kessler & Alex Familian  
Associate Producers ||| Adam Courrier, Alex Lark & Anna Zlokovic  
Assistant Director ||| Rene Gannon O’Gara  
DP ||| Powell Robinson  
Production Designer ||| Devin Cheney  
Editors ||| Alex Familian & Anna Zlokovic  
Original Music ||| Cary Singer & Nick Chuba  
Sound Design ||| Bobb Barito

VFX & Compositing ||| Alex Familian  
Art Director ||| Noel Calizo  
Costume Designer ||| Nadine Sondej-Robinson  
Make Up & Special Effects Artist ||| Amber Mari  
Hair Stylist ||| Nadine Sondej-Robinson  
Set Dressers ||| Cory Fallon & Jace McNaught  
Graphic Designer ||| Spencer Dina  
Production Sound ||| Joe Sanchez  
Script Supervisor ||| Raenne Moffat

Camera Operator ||| Sebastian Baron  
1st AC ||| Carter Ross  
2nd AC ||| Jeremy Hernandez  
Gaffer ||| Benjamin Rutkowski  
Key Grip ||| Hiram Borges  
Grips ||| Dimitri Christoforidis & Jermaine Johnson  
DIT ||| Lisa Konecny  
Studio Teacher ||| Lorna Ramsey  
Still Photographer ||| Alex Lark

## Special Thanks

Bruce & Sarah Familian  
Arlene Familian  
Nevada Gaming Partners  
Jahan Azodi  
Sam Leaver  
Desert Pit Stop  
Habib Alam  
Jen & Jim  
Marissa Meizel  
Deborah Richards  
Drew Marvick & Kelly Moss  
Brian Blu  
Stu Chaiken  
Adrienne Breslow  
Dylan Harris  
Radar Mobile Studios  
Elite Sublimation  
Evidence Cameras. INC  
Steve & Staci Melton  
443 Studio  
Casey Stein  
Devin Glass  
Chase Neisner  
Patrick Kenny  
Nethanel Kohen  
Peggy O’Brien



To view **Kid Gambled**, please visit

<https://vimeo.com/182602904>

*(password: neonpig)*

Runtime: 14:32

**Alex Familian**

*DIRECTOR / PRODUCER*

818.325.7751

alexjfam@gmail.com

**Simona Kessler**

*PRODUCER*

310.650.1363

simona.aa.kessler@gmail.com

