

**REVENGE. ALL IT TAKES IS A
DOLLAR AND A DREAM. AND THE
HELP OF A WOMAN SCORNE.**



LOGLINE

Left for dead after bungling a petty scam on a sadistic gambler, a lowly racetrack stooper fights back with the help of the gambler's ex-girlfriend to regain his dignity and recover a valuable lottery ticket that rightfully belongs to him.

SUMMARY

Length: Feature film (90-110 minutes)

Genre: Crime / Revenge: Driven man turns the tables on his tormentor

Audience: Adult; likely PG-13 (language, violence)

Characters:

- 3 Leads (2 male, 35-45, 1 female 25-30)

- 2 Supporting (male, 35-45)

- 2-4 Tertiary players

Locations: 4; primary shoots – betting parlor, bodega, diner, bar, apartment

Time: Contemporary

Budget: Estimate low: \$1M - \$2M

WHAT'S THE APPEAL?

Plot elements that audiences appreciate

- An underdog vanquishes his tormentor and wins the girl
- A scam goes well, until it turns horribly wrong - thanks to a turncoat
- An assassin thinks he killed his quarry, giving the surviving victim options

Easy to shoot: all interior scenes can be done on a lot

Expense benefits from small cast, limited locations, contemporary setting, no special FX.

Opportunity for actors to take a role against type: good guy plays a sadistic thug, e.g.

STORY

Larry starts supplementing his meager income as a dishwasher in a diner by stooping for discarded horserace tickets. Hardly glamorous, Larry's life could be OK if not for the torment meted out by thuggish gambler Vic.

Vic hooks up with Maddie; he pays her rent so she can quit her hospital job. Eventually, Maddie recognizes Vic's sadism. A strident argument turns violent. Fearing for her life, Maddie leaves the city and takes a job at another hospital.

Larry finds a discarded race ticket worth \$700. Instead of paying some bills, Larry spends it all on lottery tickets. After losing his diner job thanks to Vic, Larry discovers one of his lottery tickets is worth seven grand. Before Larry leaves town, he tricks Vic into buying a fake ticket that looks like the real one. Angry at being conned, Vic tortures the real ticket out of Larry. As a "trade," Vic stuffs the bogus ticket in Larry's shirt pocket. Vic's goon Ray shoots Larry in the back of the head, killing him – or so he thinks.

In a hospital, Larry meets Maddie, and the two develop a relationship. Unknown to Larry, the bogus ticket in his pocket bears the numbers of a multi-million dollar jackpot. Concluding Larry is still alive possessing the valuable ticket, he sends in Ray who takes the ticket – and Maddie – to Vic. Before Vic can drive off with both, Larry rushes his car, incapacitates Ray and takes the wheel. A fight and a car crash ensue. Larry and Maddie walk away from the crash scene. Leaving unconscious Vic in a compromising situation. Larry and Maddie cash out to a life of luxury while crippled Vic rots in jail.

MAIN CHARACTERS

LARRY

Middle-aged urban man down on his luck, scrapes by washing dishes in a diner.

Meek, but harbors fantasy of revenge for Vic's torment.

Clever and industrious when the situations calls.

Possesses an inner strength that enables him to overcome adversity.

MADDIE

Young artist/painter new to the city living on her own. Ekes a living working a menial job in a hospital.

Thoughtful and caring, inexperienced with society's dark underbelly.

Easily impressed by wealth and power, but quickly learns the negative sides.

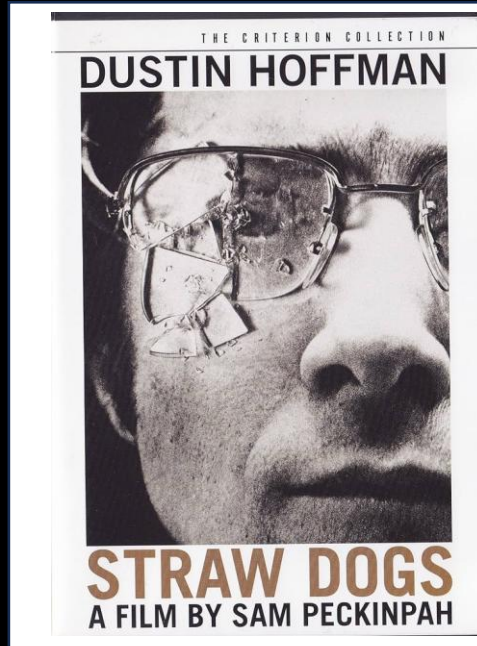
VIC

Middle-aged, powerful man who derives quasi-criminal income from gambling, loan-sharking.

Employs an entourage of ruffians who enforce his rules.

Treats weak people poorly, especially Larry whom he encounters frequently.

COMPS: TORMENTED MEN TURN THE TABLES



Straw Dogs

WW gross - \$8M

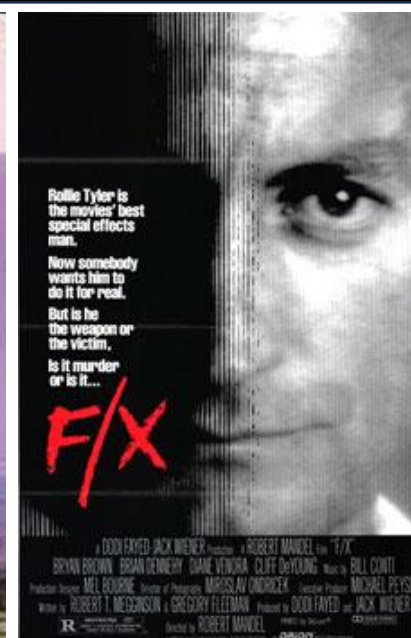
Kansas City Film Critics
Circle 1971 Winner,
Best Director



Falling Down

WW gross - \$41M

Edgar Allen Poe 1994
Winner, Best Picture



F/X

WW gross - \$20.6M

Edgar Allen Poe 1986
Nominee, Best Picture



Marathon Man

WW gross - \$21.7M

Academy Award 1977 Nominee,
Best Supporting Actor

Golden Globe 1977 Nominee, Best
Screenplay

WRITER BIO

Herb Schultz

Writer of five spec scripts

Architect's Rendition – An architect enlists three associates in a complex scheme to murder his wife, and each other.

Double Blind Test – A woman conned by identical twins gets revenge.

*Tempus Fu*it* – The life of a scientist who hunts for the thief of his invention is upturned by the invention itself.

The Stoooper – A racetrack stoooper fights to recover a valuable lottery ticket that rightfully belongs to him.

Stalled – Imprisoned in a bathroom stall, two disabled men plot an escape from their sadistic captors.

Author of three novels, a collection of short stories, and a collection of essays

Ronnie and Lennie about conjoined twins who are saddened after becoming separated.

Architect's Rendition, a story of a Machiavellian man who gets random people to kill each other for his benefit.

Double Blind Test, a tale of deceit, romance and lex talionis.

Sometimes the Sun Does Shine There and Other Stories - Winner of the 2012 Indie Reader Discovery Award for best short story collection

Culture Justly Scrutinized: A Take on Six Years of Virtue and Venality



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THE SCRIPT AND MORE

Read the script at

<https://lextalionis-scripts.com/the-stooper>

Adapted from the serialized story on Wattpad

<https://www.wattpad.com/story/283100471-the-stooper>

Table reads



Vic confronts Larry in the diner



In the hospital, Larry begs for help

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THANK YOU