

SCRABYLON

Documentary, TRT: 51 minutes, USA

Synopsis

Scrabylon is a critically-acclaimed, award-winning documentary on the cut-throat world of tournament Scrabble®.

Featuring the most fierce anagrammers, rack balancers, and bingo experts in competitive Scrabble®, **Scrabylon** delves deep into this sometimes wacky, sometimes odd, always compelling subculture. Shot primarily during the World Scrabble® Championships in Las Vegas, **Scrabylon** features players from around the globe and gives an up-close look at why people get so obsessed with that seemingly benign game played at countless kitchen tables.

Scrabylon spotlights GI (gastrointestinal) Joel Sherman, the world's only professional Scrabble® player - so named for his various stomach ailments; Jim Geary, a quick-witted professional gambler and all-around gamesman; Matt Graham, a stand-up comic from New York City; Chris Cree, a funny Texan who once won \$256,000 gambling in Las Vegas during a Scrabble® tournament; Joe Edley, the Zen Scrabble® master and only 3-time National Scrabble® Champ; Brian Cappelletto, an options trader and the first Scrabble® prodigy; Robin Pollock Daniel, a trained psychologist and the highest-rated woman on the Scrabble® scene plus many other eccentric characters.

The glue between all these players is John D. Williams, Jr., the Executive Director of the National Scrabble® Association, who describes in great detail the quirks, strategies and personalities of this fascinating group of individuals.

Film Festivals

Durango Film Festival	Detroit Docs Int'l Film Festival
Dallas Video Festival	Nickel Independent Film Festival
Sonoma Valley Film Festival	Big Bear Lake Film Festival
Chicago Underground Film Fest	Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival
Calgary International Film Fest	WorldFest Houston Bronze Award
San Diego Film Festival	Literacy in Media Awards Finalist

Plus screenings in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, Austin, Providence, Madison, Worcester and Indianapolis.

Critical Acclaim

"Petersen's talent for making mundane subject matter interesting results in a film that plays out like a 'Best in Show' about board-game lovers"

Los Angeles Times

"★★★★ Charming and funny"

Film Threat

"The definitive movie on Scrabble®!"

Extra (syndicated entertainment news show)

"Smart, wry, lively"

Time Out New York

"Funny and engrossing...a bona fide treat"

Entertainment Today

"Along with 'Spellbound,' director Scott Petersen and his 'Scrabyton' may be among the saviors of our entertainment souls in 2003"

San Diego City Beat

"Smart and funny"

Detroit Free Press

"A brilliantly weird movie"

Durango Herald

"By no means should you miss 'Scrabyton'"

Durango Telegraph

"Funny stuff"

Dallas Observer

"Intriguing"

Dallas Morning News

"Who knew watching people playing Scrabble® could be so entertaining?"

Seattle Stranger

"Breezy...quite enjoyable"

Chicago Reader

Director/Producer/Editor Bio

Scott Petersen produced and directed the award-winning, feature-length documentary **Out of the Loop**, which explored Chicago's underground music scene and featured such Windy City notables as Veruca Salt, the Jesus Lizard, and Steve Albini. This movie enjoyed a 15-city tour of colleges and universities and played at several festivals around the United States and Europe. **Out of the Loop** was broadcast on PBS and will be rereleased on home video in the very near future.

Armed with degrees in Film and Economics from the University of Michigan, Petersen began his career on the feature film "Zebrahead." Along with working in John ("Home Alone," "16 Candles," "Ferris Bueller") Hughes' office, his resume includes work on "Antiques Roadshow," "Rescue 911," "Unsolved Mysteries," Fox News, BBC, VH1, the Food Network, and several feature films and commercials.

His recent work includes the short **A Buck and Change**, editing several projects for the Learning Channel and the Recording Academy (they present the annual Grammy and Latin Grammy Awards), and cutting making-of DVD featurettes for MGM. **Scrabyton** is his second long-form documentary. He lives in Los Angeles.

Credits

Producer/Director/Editor: Scott Petersen

Directors of Photography: Scott Petersen
Nate Starck

Additional Camera: Andrew Shane
James Zucal

Original Music: David Mann

Online Editor/Color Correction: Adam Levine/Squeeze a Nickel Productions

Post-Production Sound Mixer: Bruce Hanifan

Featuring: David Boys
Brian Cappelletto
James Cherry
Chris Cree
Joe Edley
Paul Epstein
Stefan Fatsis
Marty Gabriel
Jim Geary
Matt Graham
Jim Kramer
Mark Landsberg
Ben Loiterstein
Daiva Markelis
"GI Joel" Sherman
Allan Simmons
Robin Pollock Daniel
Lester Schonbrun
Alan Stern
John D. Williams, Jr.
and many others