

Crypto Heads:

Addressing Cryptocurrency in Today's World

by Rebecca Parsons

Money is the root of all evil. Or so they say.

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, cryptocurrency is defined as any form of currency that only exists digitally, that usually has no central issuing or regulating authority but instead uses a decentralized system to record transaction and manage the issuance of new units, and that relies on cryptography to prevent counterfeiting and fraudulent transactions.

By now, you've probably heard of bitcoin, the most prominent form of cryptocurrency that went mainstream in 2014. Due to the mysterious and anonymous nature of the virtual currency it is difficult to pinpoint the exact number of users, but over 13 million investors hold bitcoin wallets with Coinbase.

U.S. Senator Thomas Carper said of the futuristic currency: "Virtual currencies, perhaps most notably bitcoin, have captured the imagination of some, struck fear among others, and confused the heck out of the rest of us."

So what exactly is cryptocurrency and how does it affect our society?

The 2018 film series, Crypto Heads strives to answer all of our questions.

Producers, Daniel J. Gillin and Todd Phillips both have a history of coin trading and are blockchain enthusiasts. After working together on a previous film they began discussing cryptocurrency and put their heads together to create a unique film addressing the subject.

A southern California native, Phillips grew up surfing and skating the streets of San Clemente so he thought it was the perfect place to serve as a backdrop for his film. He rallied a group of friends and local artists to play the characters in the film, seven of whom call the sleepy beachside town their home. In addition to San Clemente, the film features neighboring towns such as San Juan Capistrano, Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, and Encino.

"This is actually where I hang," says Phillips of the San Clemente film location. "I enjoy surfing at the pier here and this is where a lot of my friends hang out."

The film centers around Flip O'Hara, portrayed by Phillips and largely inspired by his personal experiences in the world of cryptocurrency. O'Hara is a rich business man involved in a shady crypto currency deal that ultimately goes belly up, leaving him and his partners down \$100,000. On the other end of the spectrum, Tracy Leblanc, a Beverly Hills gold-digger hits the jackpot and is set for life. And then



On location: John Ginn, Billy Murphy, Todd Phillips and Steve Crane at the uuderpass of the pier.



Bad 'Guy' Tubin Ruben Hernandez, Todd Phillips and David Metzger.



Brad Murset, Eric "Sound Man", Josh Crater in San Juan Capistrano.

there's Keith Adams, a spoiled 20-something who has been handed a loaded crypto wallet from his billionaire father and manages his for-

you'll likely recognize some faces in the film. You'll certainly recognize some of the featured locations. O'Hara's apartment is located di-

rectly above Bear Coast Coffee and is featured in a number of scenes. The cast takes a visit to The Fisherman's Restaurant & Bar and a scene is filmed on a bench on the pier. Additionally, there are several surf shots under the pier.

umes, with volume one currently available online to the public. In the first episode, 25 characters are introduced as well as a number of relevant crypto terms. The episode addresses some real issues in the world of cryptocurrency such as bullying, hacking, and youth being introduced to the modern currency. Through the film, Phillips and Gillin hope to educate the public about the realities of the types of currencies available in today's world.

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The full film is available at cryptoheadsthemovie.com. The cast would like to warn parents that there is some strong language and adult content and advise young children to watch with adult supervision.

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ture in the most dangerous way possible.

"I liked the fact that I was working with friends that I knew from San Clemente and we could keep it in the town and keep it close to that character," says Phillips of the film.

If you've lived in San Clemente for a while,

The film is broken down into three vol-