

LOST THE LEAD



A refreshing update to gaming culture



After a violent swatting prank, a disgraced video game champion recruits a **diverse** group of nerds to take down his former corporate sponsor.





THE STORY

SYNOPSIS

Leon is a disgraced global esports champion, now a video game grifter who hacks credit card information from passing online players in the game, *Astralis*. He notices one of his victims, Sophie as she's swatted by police while live streaming. Leon watches in horror and realizes that he's indirectly responsible as he's broadcasting her address publicly.

But not everything is what it seems and Leon recruits a diverse group of nerds to oust the true culprit: a racist and out of control sponsored gaming clan called HAZE. Leon and his crew want revenge and a chance to walk away with thousands. All Leon's team needs to do is enter a tournament, steal from a charity, frame HAZE, and win unscathed.

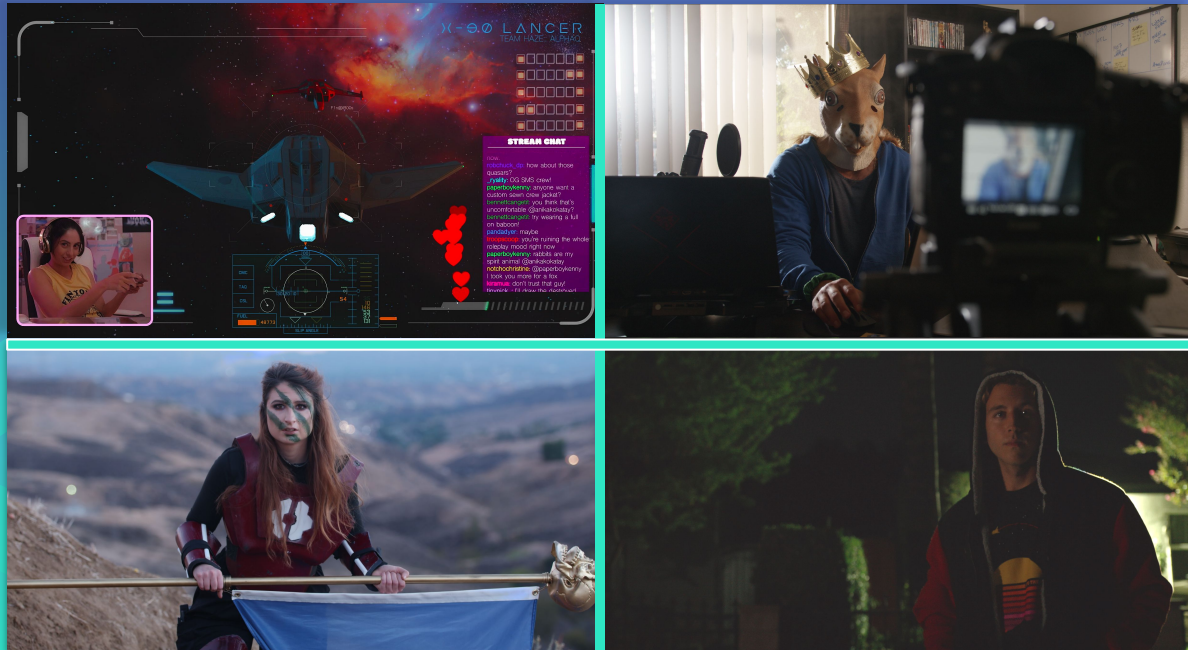
Sounds easy, right? But first they'll have to get good.

THE WORLD

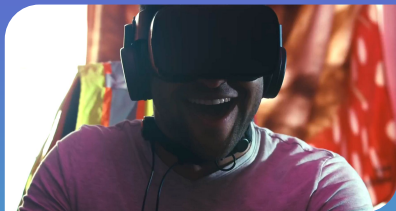


Streaming, VR, Influencing, IRL...

Lost the Lead is an absurdist comedy and drama about the existential pressure to feel seen online. The series features FOUR worlds where Leon, Marcus, Mia, and Tessa must navigate streamers, cults of personality, nefarious alt-right gamers in the real world and online in game space!



CHARACTERS



LEON

Disgraced esports champion turned grifter and doxxer. He has the experience to lead the crew but he's more chaotic evil than he lets on.



MARCUS

Leon's only friend and the moral compass of the group. Marcus is a law-abiding trooper who believes in honesty, sincerity, and duty. No one seems to agree with his methods.



MIA

An opportunist looking for a way to escape her family's shadow and debts. She tries to remain neutral until she's pressured to take what's in front of her.



TESSA

A floater and reluctant single mother who's struggled to define herself. She pursues instant gratification at the expense of her daughter and others. She's her own worst enemy

THE RIVALRY

SOPHIE and HAZE



Sophie is manipulative, methodical, and fiercely intelligent. She's a high-ranking officer in HAZE and an expert in gaining clout.

HAZE: a multi-million dollar esports conglomeration that prides itself swag gaming culture and virtue signaling. In reality, the team is led by an executive board that promotes the alt-right.



EPISODE I

Leon, a video game grifter hacks credit card information from passing online players in the game, *Astralis*. Just as Leon leaves for his shift as a security guard, he notices his latest victim Sophie swatted by police as she live streams. He watches in horror and realizes that he's broadcasting her address publicly and may have indirectly doxxed her.

Meanwhile, Tessa a young, single mom searches for a new game from one of the last remaining brick and mortar game stores in SoCal. She meets an aloof and distant manager, Mia who realizes that her account has been hacked and \$10,000 has been stolen from her family's bank account. Marcus is fired for his indirect connection to Leon's antics and Mia assumes that Leon has stolen this money as revenge for losing his job.

At a confrontation at Leon's home, he explains that the popular gaming personality HAZE is the true culprit of Sophie's swatting, Mia's missing money, and indirectly responsible for Leon and Marcus losing their jobs. Leon proposes to steal the money back and frame Haze.

Mia, Marcus, and Tessa agree to work together to create a faux team and sign-up for a HAZE competition with hopes of stealing from the social clan. Unfortunately for them, Sophie had been eavesdropping in Leon's idle lobby in VR chat and has set them up in a trap.



SEASONS

SEASON ONE - Forming the Clan

Mia struggles to maintain an identity separate from her family's failing video game store; Tessa must decide if she's capable of being a mom; Marcus balances friendship with the group and his ethics; and Leon must learn how to be vulnerable even if it means exposing his dark past.

Together, the team will need to understand why they're skirting their truths and responsibilities by escaping to gaming. All leading up to a climactic showdown where the team must decide if they're comfortable losing in life.

SEASON TWO - This Is Our House

With Haze destroyed, the team struggles with appeasing their public image and demands from corporate sponsors. Will they become hypocrites and become what they've hated?

SEASON THREE - You've Changed, Bruh

The team is hit with sexual misconduct scandals when they bring in new blood. Alt-right gaming groups reform and threaten to jail Leon and his friends.



BUT WHY?!

Lost the Lead was inspired by the true swatting of a personal friend Jordan Mathewson in 2015. While Jordan survived, the creators questioned: what would happen if he were a person of color?

There's an increasing disconnection with each generation. We all feel pressure to be seen and fame by influence feels within grasp. Lost the Lead is an absurdist comedy and drama about the existential irony of seeking online connection while severing real life relationships.

Ultimately, Lost the Lead features people of color with economic disadvantage who chase the American dream. Positive circumstances are not the same for non-white, non-binary gamers as they are that have traditionally been shown on screen. What do we do when can't move ahead and gain a lead?



The Director AKA “HARABEK”

AKA **Michael Hyon
Johnson**

M Film Lab Winner, Sundance Second Rounder, Air Force Veteran, former Halo champ... Michael is a BlackKorean writer/producer who has done it all; directing for BuzzFeed, Roadtrip Nation, Koji, Machinima Inc., and Immortals Esports.



STORY MODE LLC



The crew matches the cast

It's always important to tell a story featuring diverse faces with a diverse crew. Gender parity was critical and there was no shortage of black, Asian and Indigenous crew eager to bring this project to life (left to right):

Michael - BlacKorean writer/director

Jameson - VFX Extraordinaire

Christine - Oscar nominated producer

Amanda - Nickelodeon APOC

Allysa - VR Specialist and 1st AD



THANK YOU!



Questions?



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CREW

Writer and Director

Michael Hyon Johnson

Co-Executive Producer

Michael Hyon Johnson and Jameson Mitchell

Co-Producers

Amanda Dyer and Christine Cho

Cinematographer

Robert Chuck

Editor

Miles Wilson

VFX Supervisor

Jameson Mitchell

Colorist

Keyhan Bayegan

Production Manager

Stefanie Bielecki

First Assistant Director

Paul Rivet

2nd Assistant Director

Allysa Sing

Script Supervisor

Miles Wilson

Key Make-Up Artist

Kalissa Moran

Make-Up Artist

Katia de Pena, Darlene Orellana

Sound Designer

Bo Pang

Sound Mixer

Bo Pang, Alex Iseri, Josh Atwell

Boom Operator

Denali Chin, Alan Shi

Gaffer

Stephen Ho

Key Grip

Karim Alkhouli

Grip

Aaron Ellis, Shih Hsuan Kuo

First Assistant Camera

Victoria Chen, Lauren Duerfeldt,
Zhibin Geng

***Second Assistant
Camera***

Zack Strunin, David Dolansky

Costume Designer

Kenny Zhou

Additional Costumes

Dani Yuan

VFX Artist

Ryan Monchack