

## THE CASINO

by  
BRIAN CALI

PLUS

HD  
BEGINNINGS:  
PART TWO

An Interview with  
MARK CUBAN

MYTHS ABOUT  
PLASMA  
DISPLAYS

an article  
by Keith Yanke

BEASTIE BOYS  
AND HD

by Ray Ecke



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Front Cover: Tom Breitling (L) and Tim Poster (R) take over The Golden Nugget in Las Vegas and attempt to bring it back to its glory days in *The Casino*. (Photo credit: J. Viles, ©2004 FOX)

The serene beauty of high definition underwater footage is juxtaposed with the dangers of a sport in which the body must utilize survival reflexes to succeed.

# Breath

## On a Single

By Thomas Strodel with William Kearney

Free diving is the sport of diving without the use of air tanks. Unlike scuba diving, athletes are free to ascend and descend quickly, to move about freely. Though originally a hunting and gathering technique with ancient roots, freediving first became a sport in the 1950's through the rivalry and friendship of Enzo Maiorca and Jacques Mayol. They both pioneered techniques in free diving that are still in use today.

Several disciplines of free diving have evolved over the years, ranging from static apnea, which amounts to holding your breath in a pool, to no limits free diving, which entails speeding to depths of over 530 feet on a weighted sled, then rushing back to the surface with the help of a balloon.

Late last year, with Annabel Briseno's attempt to break four world records, we got

the chance to create a high definition documentary about the sport. My goal was to delve into the motivation of the athletes as we watched Annabel and other competitors train for and attempt their records.

As the documentary required a lot of underwater footage, we enlisted the services of expert underwater shooter, Steve Miller.

Our shoot included the use of three SONY F900 HD cameras, one of which was mounted inside a Amphibicam underwater video housing. The 80 lb housing can be a bit tricky to maneuver top-side, but once it's underwater and neutrally-buoyant, it's a joy to work with.

One of the most challenging aspects of the shoot was the fact that the competition was occurring on its own schedule, regardless of our



shooting challenges and needs. We were only allowed limited access to the competitors prior to the event, and were restricted as to how close we could get to them underwater. The shooting became a mixture of event coverage and documentary filming.

Additionally, we were not allowed to use either an underwater hydrophone or tethered diver-to-surface communications gear as they could get in the way of the competitors and safety divers. This left Steve suspended at 80 feet with little knowledge of what was going on above. In the end, we relied on thorough pre-planning and Steve's split second decision making.

With an amazing script by William Kearney, and great DP work from Anthony Lenzo, of Air Sea Land Productions, our co-production part-

ner on the project, we were able to capture the event in a way its never been done before. The documentary has already been nominated for a few festivals, and we plan on entering it into more.

*On a Single Breath* was a co-production of 24fps Productions, and Air Sea Land Productions, and was produced exclusively for the high definition extreme sports network, RUSH HD, part of the original programming line-up on the VOOM HD satellite service. **HD**

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**Annabel Briseno,**  
a 52-year old  
grandmother, as  
she attempts a  
world record