



The Dark Dealer

USA 1995

produced by

[Wynn Winberg](#), [Sandra K. Jantzen](#), [Ted Winberg](#) (executive) for [Aries Productions](#)

directed by [Tom Alexander](#), [Wynn Winberg](#)

starring [Richard Hull](#), [Kim Frazier](#), [Jeff English](#), [Mark Fickert](#), [Rocky Patterson](#), [Gordon Fox](#), [Charles Carroll](#), [Kevin Walker](#), [Vincent Gaskins](#), [Deborah Nunez](#), [Gene Mann](#), [Martin Smith](#), [Carolyn Gunn](#), [Jim Blumetti](#), [Mary Rivera](#)

written by [Tom Alexander](#), [Wynn Winberg](#), music by [Keith Alcorn](#), [Ron Di Iulio](#), visual effects by [DNA Inc.](#)

review by

Mike Haberfelner

On the run from some monster, Ray (Richard Hull) stumbles across a trio playing black jack, with the dealer (Mark Fickert) apparently being the devil, telling each of them why he's here:

- There's Pete (Rocky Patterson), a "debt collector" with a tendency of using too much violence - and when one of his "clients" (Gene Mann) somehow died in an argument, Pete and his colleague (Charles Carroll) seek refuge from the police in a basement apartment ... that's inhabited by a weirdo (Gordon Fox) who lies with everything he says, likes to eat rat soup - oh, and he's a demon who's desperately trying to cling to his human appearance ... not all that successfully maybe due to the current home invasion.
- Philip Barton (Kevin Walker) is a successful entertainment lawyer ... who much rather would like to be a songwriter - thing is, he sucks, so even his star clients who he sends demo tapes to tend to ignore them. Then Philip stumbles over a demo tape of Samson Burke (Vincent Gaskins), a failed blues musician who has died more than 30 years ago without ever actually making a record or anything - pity because his music is first rate. And when Barton learns there is no copyright on Burke's songs, he decides to sell them off as his own, to finally become a big success as a songwriter himself. The plan works, it's just ... Burke's spirit has lived on in his music, and now he demands his tribute ...
- To pay of the debt of his ex drug addict girlfriend Denise (Kim Frazier), Ray agrees to smuggle her pusher Cracker (Jeff English) into the pharma company his father works at. Once inside, Cracker is not content with stealing everything he can carry though, he also has to try a new experimental drug - that turns him into the monster from the beginning of the movie ...

Dark Dealer is almost certainly not the most original genre movie ... but at the same time it's a fun low budget blend of motives of vintage *EC Comics* of the 1950's, *Amicus omnibus movies* of the 1960's and 70's, and 1980's and 90's straight to video genre fare - and what's great is that **Dark Dealer** is totally unpretentious but also unapologetic about this, it just tries to entertain with a trio of well-paced stories made up from pulp mainstays, special effects of both the practical and the digital variety (all of them at least adequate for 1995 and a modest budget), and of course, the customary twist endings. Good fun, actually.

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