

# DAWN OF DEPRAVITY

A True Crime Audio Book Inspired by the Life of  
Broke-to-Billionaire Gangster Adult Filmmaker Michael Thevis

THESE ARE ALL  
OF PORN

**ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONER; RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATIONS - MURDER, ARSON; MAIL FRAUD; CONSPIRACY**

Entered NCIC  
I. O. 4805  
6-28-78

**WANTED BY FBI**

**MICHAEL GEORGE THEVIS**

ALIASES: George Thevis, M. G. Thevis, Michael G. Thevis, Michael Thevis, Mike Thevis

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1974

**DESCRIPTION**  
AGE: 46, born February 25, 1932, Raleigh, North Carolina (not supported by birth records)  
HEIGHT: 5'10"  
WEIGHT: 170 to 175 pounds  
BUILD: medium  
HAIR: brown - balding  
OCCUPATIONS: corporation president, newsstand operator, publisher, restaurant operator  
SCARS AND MARKS: scars on right temple, left side of nose, under chin and both legs; first two joints of right ring finger amputated  
REMARKS: may walk with limp, wear brace on left leg and use cane due to hip disorder, may be clean shaven; known to spend excessively  
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER USED: 266-40-2390

**CRIMINAL RECORD**  
Thevis has been convicted of interstate transportation of obscene matter and conspiracy to commit arson.

**CAUTION**  
THEVIS, A NATIONALLY KNOWN DISTRIBUTOR OF PORNOGRAPHY, IS BEING SOUGHT AS AN ESCAPEE FROM CUSTODY AND FOR HIS ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN TWO MURDERS AND FOUR ATTEMPTS TO KILL GOVERNMENT WITNESSES. BECAUSE THEVIS HAS USED FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN THE PAST, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED, DANGEROUS, AND AN ESCAPE RISK.

A Federal warrant was issued on May 17, 1978, at Indianapolis, Indiana, charging Thevis with violation of the Escape and Rescue Statute (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 751(a)). A Federal warrant was also issued on June 12, 1978, at Atlanta, Georgia, charging Thevis with violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Statute (Title 18, U. S. Code, Sections 1961, 1962(c), and 1963); mail fraud, conspiracy, obstruction of criminal investigation, and obstruction of justice (Title 18, U. S. Code, Sections 1341, 371, 1510, and 1503), respectively.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE.  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.

Identification Order 4805  
June 28, 1978

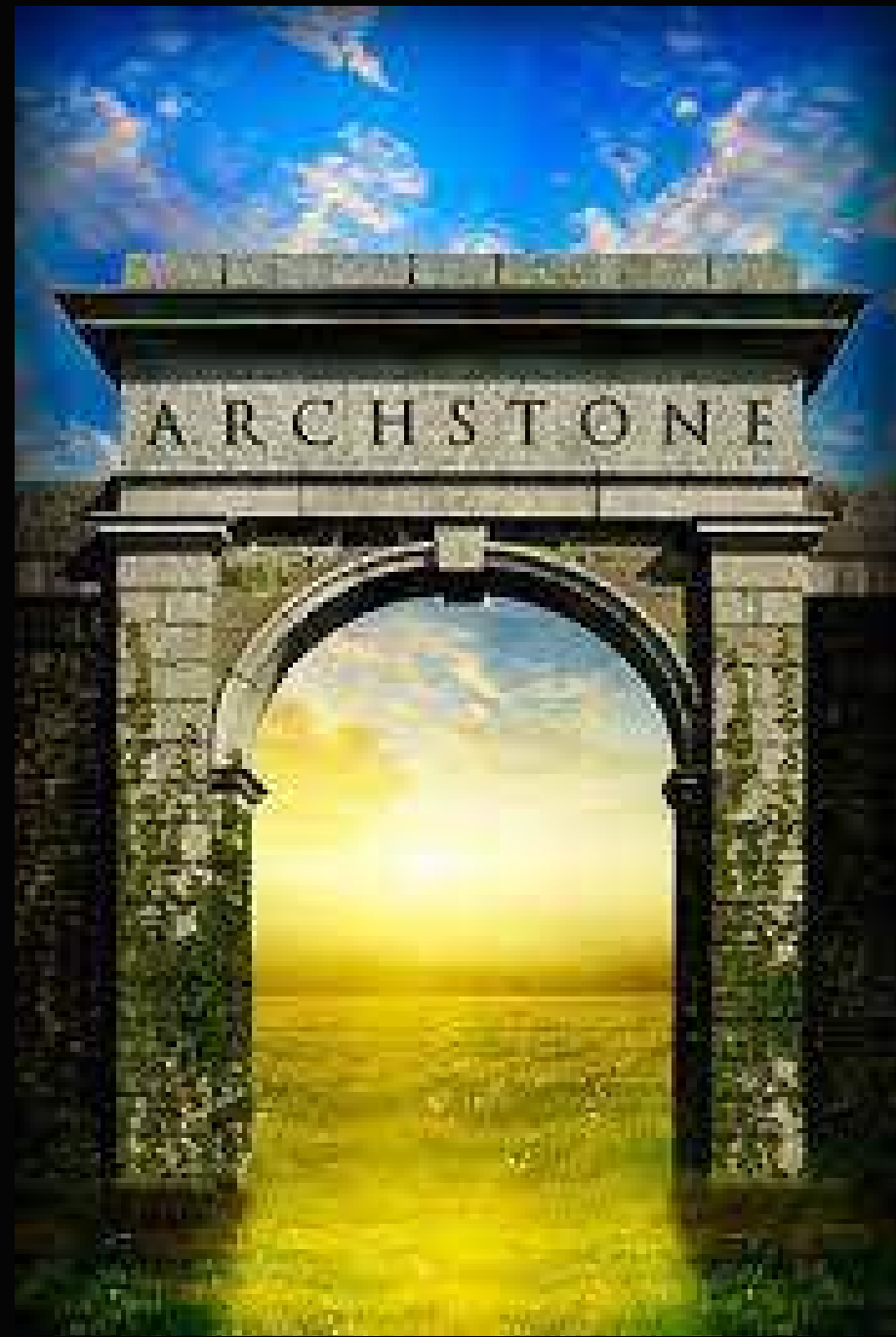
*Michael George Thevis*

*William H. Webster*  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C. 20535

One of the last remaining *untold* true crime stories.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



ENTERTAINMENT

Dawn of Depravity is a true crime genre book written by Scott Collman and presented by Archstone Entertainment and MSMLSC, Inc. Worldwide film and television rights for the book, story and associated materials have been acquired by Archstone Entertainment with the feature film and television series currently in development.

Archstone Entertainment has provided worldwide distribution, sales and producer/production services for hundreds of film and television projects over their history. With over 200 titles in their current library, Archstone attends virtually every major film market throughout the world. Archstone continues their relationships with buyers and distributors all over the world as well as some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry including: Sony, Paramount, Warner Brothers, Universal, Lions Gate, NetFlix, Amazon, Saban, Apple, Hulu and many others.

**[ArchstoneEnt.com](http://ArchstoneEnt.com)**

# THE BOOK

## Dawn of Depravity

A Story Inspired by the Life of an Infamous Genius, Entrepreneur, Pornographer and Murderer That You Have Never Heard About

The book tells the true story of Michael George Thevis, a mild-mannered guy who dropped out of college to support his family to survive. Working in the family's open-air news stand, Michael turned a failing business into a multi-million dollar industry through sheer determination, entrepreneurship and perhaps a little genius. Ultimately, he became a pioneer of the modern day pornography industry. At one point, he was earning over \$100 Million per year in the 60's and 70's (valued at over 1 billion dollars per year in present day money).

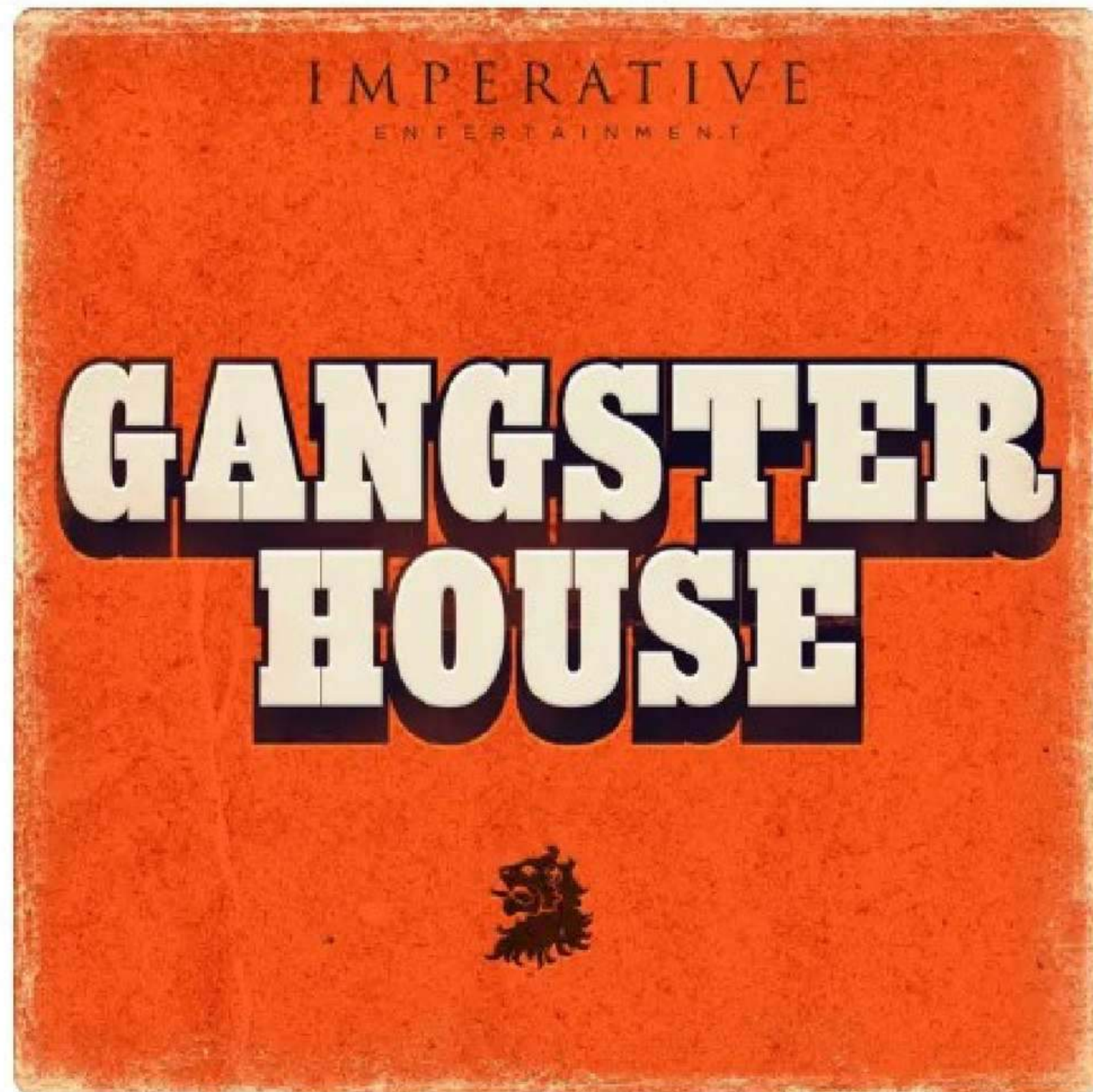
Michael Thevis was the creator of the original movie reel peep booths that appeared in almost every store on New York's infamous 42nd street. The Thevis empire expanded coast to coast in every major city throughout the US.

During his heyday, Thevis was making more money than IBM and General Motors combined, until his worldwide pornography empire began to spiral out of control and sink into chaos, crime, betrayal, murder and mayhem. The ultimate sociopath, he was convicted of multiple murders and arson, and spent his final years in the Stillwater Penitentiary in Bayport, Minnesota. His story is one of the few remaining *untold* true crime stories.

This is a true crime story with undertones of the innovator/entrepreneur who becomes a psychopath/sociopath, and enters into the world of mobsters, opulence, ego and murder. It appeals to the massive True Crime Story market as well as the Adult and True Crime audiences of male and female alike.



# THE FASCINATION WITH THEVIS



12 episodes

Mike Thevis was the son of Greek immigrants, living the American Dream in 1970s Atlanta. He was married and had five kids. He owned one of the largest homes in Atlanta, full of fine art and exquisite furnishings. He built a highly successful business empire. But Thevis made many enemies along the way. This is the story of Mike Thevis, family man, and one of the most notorious criminals you've never heard of.

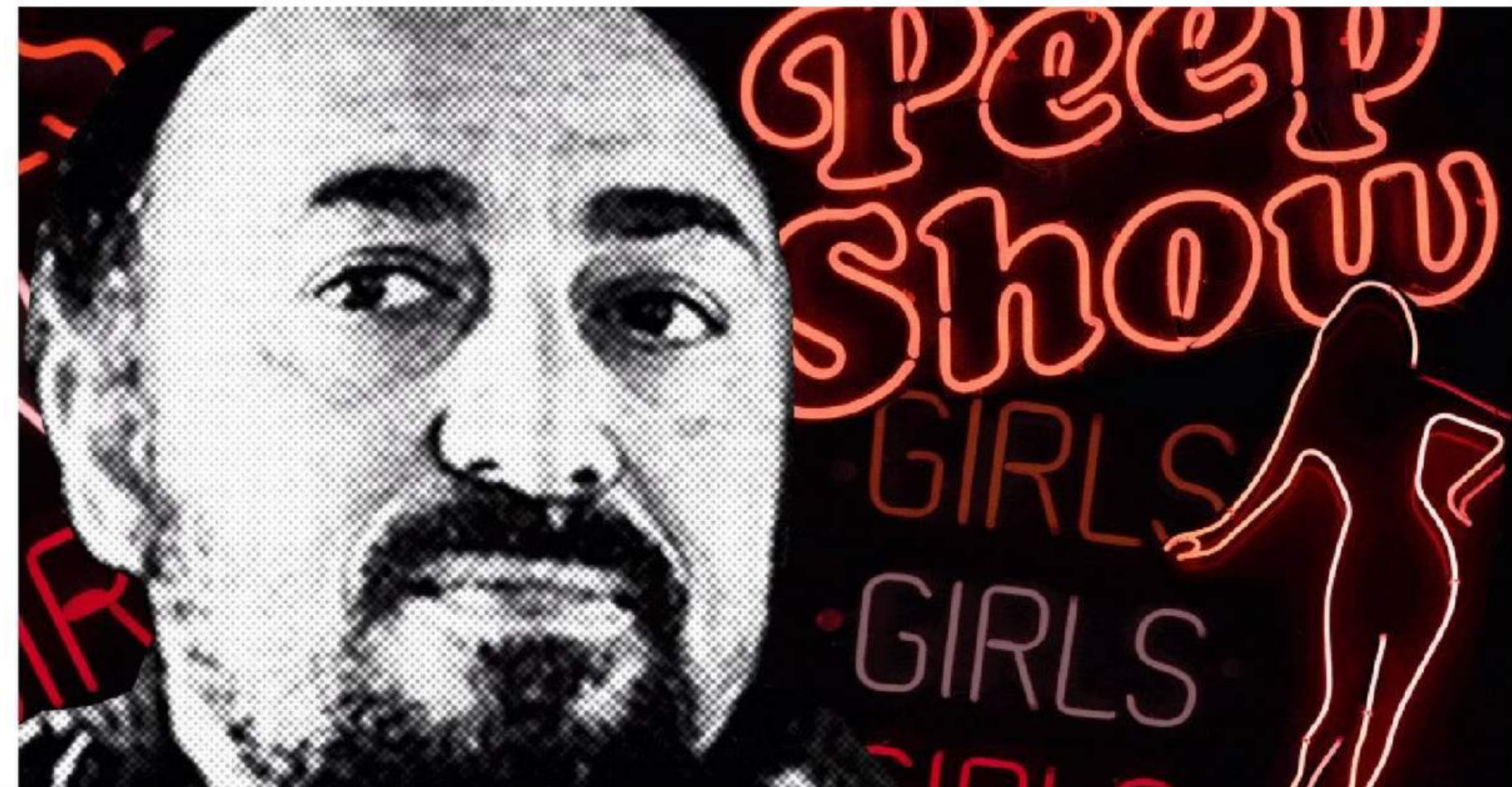
## *The Scarface of Sex: The Millionaire Playboy Who Murdered His Way to the Top of Porn*

TRUE STORY

Michael Thevis made his fortune by selling porn to millions of Americans in the 1970s. Then a campaign of bombings, killings, and a prison break brought down his peep-show empire.



Jeff Maysh | Updated Nov. 23, 2020 10:04AM EST / Published Jun. 10, 2017 9:22PM EDT



Sections

The Washington Post  
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Sign In

## 'I was the GM of Pornography'

By Art Harris  
November 11, 1978

When he was riding high, Mike Thevis liked to boast that he was an American success story.

The son of poor Greek immigrant parents, Thevis, through sweat and determination, parlayed a small downtown newsstand into a \$100 million, coast-to-coast empire.

But Michael George Thevis was Horatio Alger with a difference: his empire was based on pornography, and his competitive methods included, according to law enforcement authorities, arson, extortion and murder.



# THEVIS HISTORICAL TIMELINE

**1932:** Michael George Thevis was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, where his Greek Orthodox grandparents raised him.

**1949–50:** Thevis attended Georgia Tech on partial scholarship but had to drop out after his grandparents' landlord raised their rent by \$57. He supported himself and his grandparents by operating a newsstand which he eventually purchased.

**1953:** Thevis married. Subsequently, he and his wife had five children.

**1955** (approx.): Thevis first became aware of the vast commercial potential of selling sexually related material when he realized that sales of Playboy magazine accounted for about ninety percent of his income.

**1959** (approx.): A vendor for Biennale Books sold Thevis his first box of triple-X-rated adult books, which he quickly resold at great profit. Thevis began his transition from a working-class newsstand owner of modest means to a wealthy man.

**1967:** Thevis teamed with Ken "The Jap" Hanna to publish their own hardcore pornography. Hanna enabled Thevis to extend his distribution outlets. One of Thevis's writers used the pseudonym Donna D. Dildo (actually Ed Wood, Jr.), who became a popular underground writer and was later portrayed by Johnny Depp in the 1994 movie Ed Wood.

# THEVIS HISTORICAL TIMELINE

**1967+:** Ken Hanna introduced Thevis to Roger Dean Underhill, a high-level member of the New York-based Gambino crime family. By the mid-1970s, Thevis controlled about ninety percent of the peep show booths in the United States, and he was taking in \$100 million a year in revenue. Thevis also helped fund Oliver Stone's second movie, *Seizure* (1974), and he produced *Poor Pretty Eddie* (1975), a low-budget film featuring interracial sex and starring Leslie Uggams, Michael Christian, Slim Pickens, and Shelley Winters.

**1970:** Thevis killed Ken Hanna when he demanded a bigger cut of the profits. Thevis and Underhill disposed of the body at the Atlanta airport.

**September 19, 1972:** On Thevis's orders, Underhill and Bill Mahar burned down a competing adult bookstore owned by Herman Womack.

**December 1972:** Thevis, who was hospitalized from an automobile accident, arranged the pipe bomb murder of Jimmy Mayes.

**1973:** Underhill was arrested with weapons that had been used in murders. Underhill's arrest brought Thevis to the attention of the FBI for the first time.

November 1975: *Reader's Digest* published an article about Thevis entitled "Sultan of Smut" in which Nat Bailen slandered Thevis.

**1976:** Underhill was released from prison. He agreed to become a federal informant, wore a hidden microphone and FBI recorded his conversations with Thevis.

**1976:** Thevis ordered Underhill and associates to burn down Bailen's factory in Louisville; their conversations were secretly recorded by the FBI.

# THEVIS HISTORICAL TIMELINE

**1976:** Sentenced to 8 years + 6 months in prison for conspiracy to commit arson and distribution of obscene materials. While in prison, Thevis was able to obtain special treatment: phone and visitation privileges, special meals, and even sexual trysts with a girlfriend, one of which prison officials watched through a two-way mirror. Thevis's wife divorced him.

**April 28, 1978:** Thevis bribed prison staff and escaped from Floyd County Jail. FBI placed him on its Ten Most Wanted list.

**1978:** Thevis went into hiding and put a bounty of \$1 million on Roger Underhill, who was preparing to testify against Thevis in the murders of Hanna and Mayes.

**October 25, 1978:** Thevis murdered Underhill in Atlanta while showing a property for sale to Isaac Galanti, whom he also also murdered.

**November 9, 1978:** Thevis arrested while trying to use a stolen identity to cash a check for \$20K.

**October 1980:** Convicted of depriving Underhill and Galanti of their civil rights, sentenced to 28 years to life in prison.

**November 1999:** Thevis was denied parole. Subsequent appeals also denied.

**November 2013:** Michael George Thevis died in a maximum security prison. He supposedly had \$2.5 billion (in present day money) in offshore accounts, which is still unaccounted for and "missing.'

# DAWN OF DEPRAVITY

END.