

Title: We The Investors Partners

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First, please note, no matter what's here... it doesn't really change anything. The best course- in my belief- is DRS and hold. (or hodl, if you prefer,)

At the risk of banging on things, I noticed a week or two ago (when another ape mentioned it,) that WTI was listing a few partners and did a little digging into them. It seems particularly more relevant now with some of Dr. T's tweets. I'm not saying these are the people she finds untrustworthy. I don't pretend to speak for her.

Also, my goal isn't to push a narrative... so I'm avoiding conclusions (though some have crept in. sorry.) if I'm wrong, I'll be happy to correct it. I've tried to add in as many sources as I can find. I've been looking for about a week. (I know the timing is suspect. there's a few apes I've been bouncing things around with, though. they can vouch, if they'd like.)

while I'm trying to avoid bias, I can't say I don't have it. So let me be perfectly clear: I AM NOT ASKING FOR TRUST. I'd delight in having honest conversation here.

The three partners listed are [Public.com](<https://Public.com>), Proof trading, and Prodigium Pictures.

Public

[Public.com](<https://public.com/>) is an app based brokerage- Open To the Public Investments, Inc, that has existed under numerous names for twenty years or so. Public uses Apex for it's clearing house, they put GME and others onto PCO as a result, during the sneeze. They were, [purportedly angry about it.](<https://www.thestreet.com/video/public-com-coo-says-apex-cleared-restrictions-gamestop-amc-and-koss>) They also stepped back from [PFOF as of 2/16/21](<https://medium.com/the-public-blog/were-officially-pfof-free-1232acf11ee8>).... just after the sneeze. and probably just to get out from the shitstorm of hate that was descending on RH and Citadel. instead, they've implemented 'optional tipping'.

looking them up on [brokercheck](<https://brokercheck.finra.org/firm/summary/127818>), leads to some interesting things. They've got one disclosure on them, apparently some guy was writing research reports with out the appropriate training/license/whatever to do so. [they paid 1k and didn't admit guilt](https://files.brokercheck.finra.org/firm/firm_127818.pdf).

They've previously operated under the names:

- * T3 Securities, inc
- * liquid prime services, inc
- * Taconic Capital Group, inc,
- * Public

Their founder is [Sean Henderman,](<https://www.linkedin.com/in/seanhendelman>) who is also currently the CEO. Henderman is also the CEO of T3 Live and T3 Trading. T3 Trading is a [prop shop](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/prop_shop.asp). mostly, it would seem, as day traders on stocks. They apparently have decent training.

T3 trading is also [apex](<https://t3trading.com/technology/>), but also ED&fman; and ICBC, for a clearing house. they also offer routing options through- in addition to 'All US Exchanges, (IEX included?)- Citadel,

Apex Clearing and several others.

I've also haven't looked up if they put GME et al to PCO- they're a proprietary firm, and I don't know that it really matters if they did or not. this isn't a firm for apes.

broker check shows that they paid 15k+10k in fines and costs for [violations](https://files.brokercheck.finra.org/firm/firm_154431.pdf) that went over my head. sounds like RegSHO was involved, as was CBOE. they also have commissions from referring retail to other brokerages or services, which well... I assume that's normal.

Proof

Proof Trading is... according to their [website](<https://prooftrading.com>) they are:

>Proof is a new institutional equities execution platform.

>...As an execution-only broker dealer, we build algos to navigate the market on behalf of our institutional clients, and we provide unprecedented levels of transparency so that our products are designed to be highly accountable as well as highly performant. ...

[^((investopedia: execution only broker))](<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/execution-only.asp>)

They also indicate they provide access to an [algo](<https://prooftrading.com/offerings/>) for trading. it seems to be a not-entirely closed algo, which I assume you get a look under the hood as a client. actually, if I understand the marketing material correctly, they offer two such algos- one which trades on VWAP, another that has something to do with liquifying brains. (only conclusion I can make, since the blurb liquefied my brains. happy Halloween.) (it goes over my head, but [this](<https://prooftrading.com/docs/main-algo.pdf>) offers insight into the algos.

So, the way I read the marketing is they're a broker-service that also provides access to a semi-open (or at least, not entirely closed,) algo for HFT, and helping clients build a brokerage that (presumably) utilizes their algo.

[Their brokerage uses Apex as a clearing house.](<https://prooftrading.com/disclosures/>) but I haven't found anything identifying if they put GME to PCO or not. given that they were [registered](<https://brokercheck.finra.org/firm/summary/306369>) as a broker in 2020, and started as a company in '19, they would have been around for the squeeze. but I'm thinking it wouldn't have mattered since their focus is more institutional-seeming.

They also seem to be building a service helping 'people' build their own brokerage.

[Interestingly](<https://prooftrading.com/team/>), their CEO and a founder is a co-founder of IEX- Charles Aisen. He worked at RBC before that. It looks like most of their leadership were at IEX and RBC, as well, though the CTO was IEX after working at Goldman-Sachs. if you read the bios ever the rest of the team listed.... you'll see that most worked at IEX, too.

Prodigium Pictures

[Prodigium](<https://www.prodigium-pictures.com/>) is a production-for-hire company. They're the company that produced the Gaming Wallstreet Documentary on HBO. Interestingly, the Prodigium link from WTI doesn't point prodigium's website, but rather the doc's [website](<https://gamingwallstreet.org/>). Where... uh... they're apparently trying for advocacy, too! it should be noted, that prodigium is a for-hire production company. Meaning anybody could go to them and ask for materials (or, say, a documentary,) get made.

it appears that their larger clients are epon and naacp, and that -mostly- they do marketing materials and

comercials. according to their story, they started the documentary from hanging out early days of reddit, and that's what started it.

The film was a 'social impact feature film' called [strive](<https://www.prodigium-pictures.com/strive>). they also have a movie called [the moon and back.](<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13435750/>) that is occasionally seemingly not referenced on the site, (or I'm just an idiot.)

The owners of Prodigium are Tobia Deml and Hiroki Kamada. as far as I can tell, they're just media producers. (no offense to them, lol. just saying, I can't find anything... insidious.)

that said, the documentary was made with help from [biltmore films](<http://biltmorefilms.com/who-we-are>).

The two people listed as working there on the website are [Burke Koonce](<https://www.linkedin.com/in/burke-koonce>) and John Fitchorn. (you may have noticed Fitchorn was also *in* the HBO doc.) Biltmore films also funded and produced the (early) 2017 documentary [Betting on Zero](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epNmVLtpkZA>) covering Herbalife and Ackman's accusations of it being a pyramid scheme. (it *was* an MLM scam, so, fuck 'em.). and just to be clear, Betting on Zero came out *before* the Ackman/LCahn spat over Herbalife came to a head... where Ackman closed the shorts in November '17.

The third company associated on gaming Wall Street is [Gunpowder Sky](<https://gunpowdersky.com/about-us/>). didn't do too much digging. their website is an unmaintained mess to navigate. From what I gathered, though, Biltmore brought Gunpowder Sky in as distributors or something for the documentary.

Just a brief mention, HBO is owned by Warner Bros Discovery. dunno if that plays into it or not.

In addition to having made the series with the other two, their website has a '[learn](<https://gamingwallstreet.org/#ground>)' section... which includes 'partnerships' with both Better Investing and Financial Beginnings.

Both links to these websites go to a landing page that has something about gaming Wall Street on it. ([1](<https://www.betterinvesting.org/hbo-gaming-wall-street>), [2](<https://financialbeginnings.org/gaming-wall-street/>)) though it doesn't seem to be some sort of gotcha. at least, not on the surface. Both are 501c non profits, whose 'purpose' is to provide investment education. (and in the part of Financial Beginnings, more broad financial literacy.) Better Investing is subscription based (\$145/year, not bad, compared to for-profit alternatives, really.) education, while FB is entirely free. both seem to be giving out old school advice. like buy blue chip stocks, and invest in growth companies, etc.

they also link to Investopedia's glossary.

Thanks for reading!