



“A moving and powerful portrait of trauma and recovery, Cracked Up will likely prove as therapeutic for many viewers as it clearly is for Hammond himself.”

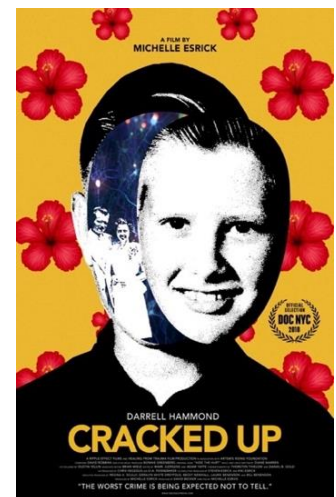
- Frank Scheck, **Hollywood Reporter**



In **“Cracked Up,”** director Michelle Esrick’s Award-winning documentary, we witness the impact that childhood trauma can have across a lifetime through the incredibly courageous and personal story of comedian, actor and *Saturday Night Live* legend Darrell Hammond. Renowned for his impressions of Bill Clinton, Sean Connery and more, Hammond wowed SNL audiences for a record-breaking 14 seasons. Although Hammond performed brilliantly on live TV, behind the scenes he suffered from debilitating flashbacks, self-injury and addictions, symptoms which were misdiagnosed by over 40 doctors as mental illnesses, including: multiple personality disorder, manic depression and schizophrenia. Not until a suicide attempt that brought Hammond together with Dr. Nabil Kotbi, was he properly diagnosed and treated, unleashing the memories his brain had locked away for over 50 years.

Esrick, gracefully weaves comedy and tragedy, helping us to understand the biological effects of childhood trauma in a new light. Breaking down barriers of stigma and replacing shame with compassion and hope, Esrick explores what is possible when science meets the human spirit.

“Cracked Up” also features *Saturday Night Live* creator and producer Lorne Michaels, SNL writer and producer Steve Higgins, Tony Award winning director Christopher Ashley and Dr. Nabil Kotbi, who helped Hammond finally understand that he was not mentally ill rather was suffering mental injury. Also appearing in **“Cracked Up”** is trauma expert Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, Academy Award-winning actress Whoopi Goldberg and Hammond’s childhood friend, Larry Laskowski.



Michelle Esrick and Darrell Hammond at the Capital

On September 24-26th, 2018, director Michelle Esrick and Darrell Hammond met with members of Congress and non-governmental organizations in Washington, DC to discuss childhood trauma and two important supporting bills; the Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act and the Opioid Crisis Response Act.

Director Michelle Esrick and Darrell Hammond met with:

- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- National Children's Alliance
- Representative Bobby Scott
- Representative Frank Pallone
- Senator Dick Durbin
- Congressman Mike Gallagher
- Congressman Danny K. Davis
- Julia Frederick, representative for Senator Elizabeth Warren
- Energy & Commerce Committee
- Ways & Means Committee
- Education & the Workforce Committee

NOTE: On October 24th, the President signed into law the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, bipartisan legislation to address the nation's growing opioid crisis and reduce overdose deaths. Hammond and Esrick are honored to have played a role in helping to get this important bill into effect.

Here's what some of our country's policy makers had to say about "Cracked Up":



*"I am grateful to actor Darrell Hammond and filmmaker Michelle Esrick for their willingness to share their experiences to inform the connection between adverse childhood experiences as a root cause to substance use. Through collaborative advocacy with them, legislators, and child and health advocates, the **SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act** includes important new policies that will help prevent substance abuse by enhancing health providers training to recognize and work with trauma-exposed children, improving understanding of trauma and its effects, and increasing services for children and families exposed to trauma. I thank everyone who fought for these provisions because their efforts made a difference. - Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-III)*

*"Darrell Hammond is in DC with the film, **CRACKED UP** and it's director Michelle Esrick. The film focuses on the effects of childhood trauma told through Mr. Hammond's personal story. It's stories like Mr. Hammond's that we hear far too often from cities, towns, and communities across America. Children who face traumatic experiences, whether that be an abusive parent or witnessing gun violence, hold onto these experiences, which can disrupt their healthy*



development and lead to serious issues later in life. Too often, we see the consequences of childhood trauma down the road, like with Chicago's gun violence crisis and the nation's opioid epidemic. I welcome Mr. Hammond's support and powerful advocacy for my legislation with Senator Heitkamp, the **Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act**. This bill brings more federal resources and awareness to recognizing childhood trauma early and providing the right care, and I'm pleased that major provisions were included in Congress' bipartisan opioid package. It is a critical investment in prevention.”
- **Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-III)**

“Tuesday's meeting was an important step in spreading awareness of **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)** and its vital role in helping solve some of our nation's most pressing public health issues.” He continued, “I would like to thank Darrell Hammond and Michelle Esrick for sharing their perspectives on TIC and the positive impact it's had on their own communities. By working together and bringing more voices to the table, we have a real opportunity to help improve health outcomes for the millions of children, families, and adults across the U.S. who have been impacted by trauma.”
- **Congressman Mike Gallagher (R-WI)**



NOTE:

- You can watch the Official **Trailer** - <http://bit.ly/CrackedUpMovieTrailer>
- **Visit our Website** and see it there crackedupmovie.com
- Director Michelle Esrick's **TEDTalk** - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KVnwC-taQXM>

Host A Screening In Your Community

“**Cracked Up**” is now available for screenings at schools, community venues, organizations, conferences, spiritual centers, treatment centers, hospitals, homes or any place people want to gather for an honest and transformative conversation leading to trauma informed communities. For more information contact TUGG, <https://www.tugg.com/titles/cracked-up>

Running Time 1:38

CRACKED UP (2019 USA, RT 98min) A RIPPLE EFFECT FILMS AND HEALING FROM TRAUMA FILM PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH ARTEMIS RISING FOUNDATION COMPOSER DAVID ROBBINS EXECUTIVE MUSIC PRODUCER BONNIE GREENBERG ORIGINAL SONG “HIDE THE HURT” MUSIC AND LYRICS WRITTEN BY DIANE WARREN 3-D COLLAGES BY DUSTIN YELLIN ASSOCIATE EDITOR BRIAN MIELE EDITED BY MARK JUERGENS AND ADAM YAFFE CINEMATOGRAPHY BY THORSTEN THIELOW AND DANIEL B. GOLD CO-PRODUCED BY CHRIS HEGEDUS AND D.A. PENNEBAKER CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY STEVEN ESRICK AND KIKI ESRICK EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY REGINA K. SCULLY, GERALYN WHITE DREYFOUS, BECKY NEWHALL, LAURIE BENENSON AND BILL BENENSON PRODUCED BY MICHELLE ESRICK PRODUCED BY DAVID BECKER DIRECTED BY MICHELLE ESRICK.

If you are interested in an interview with Director Michelle Esrick,

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