

Women In Poker



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By Alexander Baron



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The game of poker has always had a slightly disreputable reputation, to put it mildly. With the rise of the on-line game though it has become glamorous, a glamour that has extended to the real world. There have been some colourful characters in the game too, like Dave Ulliott, **who died recently**. With one or two exceptions though, there have been very few women players; one who combines glamour with skill at the table is the actress Jennifer Tilly, who is both a very enthusiastic and a very good player. She will be putting in an appearance **on May 11** at the Roundabout Theatre Company's first Annual Casino Night in New York City. This is a charity event, but there is little if any charity at the tables elsewhere. Can the fair sex compete with the big boys, or do they lack the killer instinct?



Jennifer Tilly (Credits: flipchip)

One person who thinks they can is Maria Ho; originally from Taiwan, Maria is currently based in Los Angeles, although like other real world players she travels a fair bit. To date she has won over \$1.6 million in live tournaments, and was the **last woman standing** in two World Series events, 2007 and last year. Her largest ever win was \$540,020, at no limit hold 'em in 2011.



*Professional woman poker
player Maria Ho (Credits: Maria
Ho)*

Ranked third of the world's women players, she has some new competition this year. A woman who wins a tournament can be called lucky. Winning two in a row can be called coincidence, but anyone – man or woman – who wins three in a row has to be taken seriously. That is what Angela Jordison **did recently** winning \$10,828 in a \$125 tournament, then \$18,348 the following day in a 400+ field, then \$8,731 in a shootout tournament with a 200+ field. The mother of two is no overnight success either; she had previously won \$14,534 in a live tournament and a total of over \$48,000 in a career **that dates back** to 2006.



Angela Jordison (Twitter)

There are a number of women players in the on-line world too, where there is a lot more action, but somehow sitting in front of a computer screen does not have quite the same glamour. The biggest event in the poker calendar is the World Series which takes place at Las Vegas in July. Don't bet against any of these ladies taking major honours, you may well lose your shirt.

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