

**LOVE  
LAID  
BARE**

# TOP SHELF

**A FORMOSA FILMS PRODUCTION**



**blisteringly modern  
comedy, exploring each side  
of the sexual battlefield,  
with telling and hilarious  
consequences.**

**The actors who appear in this document  
do so for representational purposes only.**





**Logline: An undercover reporter goes under the covers like never before when he's sent to do a hatchet job on a mucky mag. The girls, the glam and the sex are all there, but to his surprise it's his heart he ends up following, and not his by-line.**



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## LOVE LAID BARE SYNOPSIS

High-powered, feminist newspaper editor, **CHRISTINE COLLINS**, is fired up to launch a personal crusade through her paper and chooses ambitious young reporter **GODFREY** to do her dirty work. Godfrey couldn't be happier about his new assignment - working undercover on **BLING**, Britain's most controversial top shelf magazine.

At first Godfrey has a ball meeting the models, directing the photo shoots and even writing the raunchy readers letters, but the girl that really stokes his interest is the staff receptionist, **WENDY** - a former scandal mistress who sold her story years earlier and brought down a cabinet minister. Christine agrees; this is their story's angle.

Godfrey attempts to get close to Wendy, but soon discovers that she is not the malicious "Mucky Mistress" as portrayed in his own paper but was actually the victim of an elaborate plot to discredit the popular politician by his opponents.

However, when Wendy realises the nice new staffer she'd grown so fond of is really an undercover hack, she feels betrayed and decides it's time to turn the tables and stitch-up the stitch-up merchants.

Godfrey is set up to take a fall, exposed as a reporter in a sensational sex-clusive, arrested for public indecency and booted off **Bling** - the dream assignment is over. Despite Wendy's revenge, the last thing Godfrey would do is run her through the tabloid wringer so he is fired when he refuses to write up the story.

Before he leaves the newspaper, Godfrey has one last chance to right past wrongs and secretly helps Wendy to rid herself of an obsessive stalker who's been plaguing her since the tacky ministerial affair.

When Wendy sees that Godfrey was really there for her she decides to track him down. To her great surprise, she finds him assisting her invalid father in his industrial injury dispute and the two scandal merchants finally unite to embark on a tabloid-free life together.



**Budget:**  
£2m (\$3m)

**Soundtrack:**  
Contemporary pop with a Indie edge

**Audience Primary:**  
16 - 25 with a male skew

**Secondary:**  
25 - 35 male & female

**Shooting Location:**  
London Studio & Regional locations (UK)

**Director:**  
Neil Thompson  
**Producers:**  
Martin Carr,  
Neil Thompson  
**Writer:**  
Danny King



CLUBBED was released in UK/ French cinemas in January 2009, on DVD in May and on VOD in June 2009.



Photography Formosa Films



**Larger than life characters create riotous situations with their sharp dialogue and quick fire exchanges.**

## THE TEAM

**Formed in 2005, Formosa Films debut feature Clubbed was written by BAFTA winning writer Geoff Thompson, inspired by his Sunday Times best selling book.**

The films \$2.5m budget was funded by an EIS, Screen West Midlands and the UK Film Tax Credit. CLUBBED was released in UK and French cinemas in January 2009 and was sold internationally by prestigious sales agent, AV Pictures who completed deals for a number of territories including France, Germany, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, Croatia, Baltic States and the Middle East. The film received very high profile press and PR and the DVD was the top selling title in HMV on week of release. It is also a top seller on VOD. Formosa has a slate of films in development and Twenty8K, a fast paced thriller is scheduled to shoot in early 2011.

### Martin Carr - Producer

Martin Carr has produced several films for the big and small screen including two for the BBC directed by Danny Boyle (Trainspotting, The Beach, 28 Days Later) and CLUBBED directed by Neil Thompson.

### Neil Thompson - Director/Producer

Neil Thompson has directed more than 150 music videos and over 50 television commercials as well as award winning shorts. Neil's debut feature film CLUBBED secured a nationwide release in January 2009. Neil was elected to the council of PACT and chaired the film group of the Directors' Guild of Great Britain.



## CONTACT

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# Main Characters and Cast Wish List

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The wish list for main characters include:

### Godfrey

Toby Kebbell (RocknRolla, Control, Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time), Dominic Cooper (An Education, Mamma Mia!, The Duchess) Orlando Bloom (Lord of the Rings, Pirates of the Caribbean, Troy)

### Wendy

Gemma Arteton (Quantum of Solace, St. Trinian's, The Boat That Rocked), Emily Blunt (The Wolfman, The Young Victoria, The Devil Wears Prada), Eva Green (Casino Royale, Kingdom of Heaven, The Golden Compass) Elisa Cuthbert (24, The Girl Next Door, Captivity)

### Paddy

John Simm (Human Traffic, Life on Mars, Sex Traffic), Marc Warren (Wanted, Hustle, State of Play), Jack Davenport (FlashForward, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Libertine)

### Christine

Maxine Peake (Clubbed, Criminal Justice, See No Evil: The Moors Murders), Holly Aird (Scenes of a Sexual Nature, Waking the Dead, Fever Pitch), Sarah Parish (Mistresses, Cutting It, The Holiday)

### Maxine Peake



### Jack Davenport



# DANNY KING



Two other novels by Danny have recently been optioned by Hollywood producer David Matalon ("LA Confidential", "Breaking Up", "What's Eating Gilbert Grape").

## WRITER'S BIOGRAPHY

Danny King is the writer of eight successful novels to date including "The Bank Robber Diaries", "The Hitman Diaries", "Milo's Run", and most recently "Blue Collar", all published by Serpents Tail. In 2007 he wrote the successful TV sitcom "Thieves Like Us" for BBC based on his novel "The Burglar Diaries". The six part series featured Tom Brooke ("Pulling", "The Boat that Rocked"), Gary Beadle ("Eastenders", "Holby City") and Jessica Harris ("Being Human", "Heartbeat") and was well received by audiences. His novels "School for Scumbags" and "The Henchmans Book Club" have recently been optioned by Hollywood producer David Matalon of DM Productions ("LA Confidential", "Breaking Up", "What's Eating Gilbert Grape").

Before becoming a full time novelist and screenplay writer Danny worked in publishing for Club International and worked as the editor for Mayfair. His role in these magazines inspired his novel The Pornographer Diaries, the play and novel on which Top Shelf is based. The play was performed at the Edinburgh Festival in 2007 to critical acclaim and the screenplay has been in development with Formosa Films since 2008.



Godfrey  
Toby Kebbell  
Dominic Cooper  
Orlando Bloom

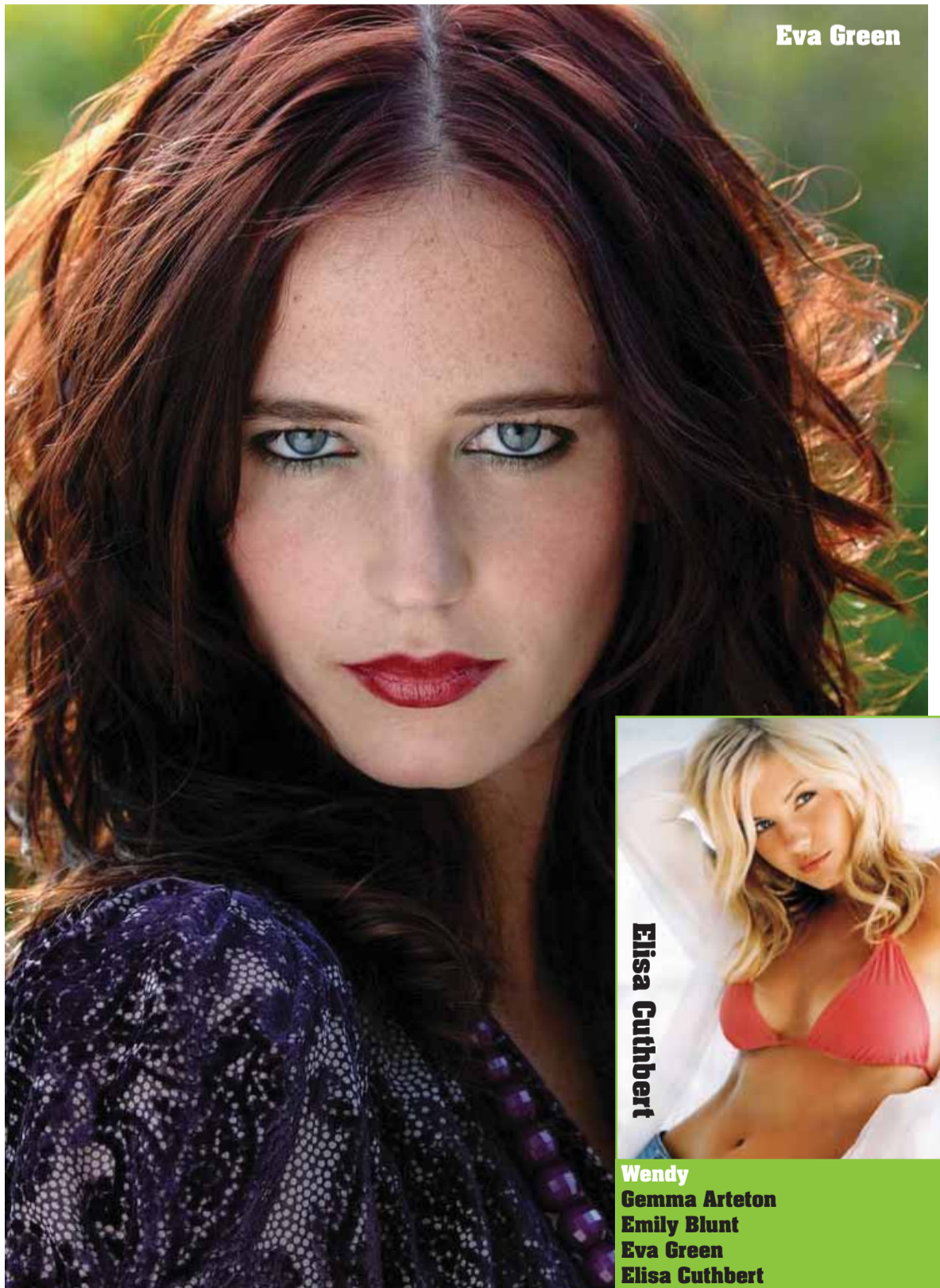
## Main Characters

**GODFREY** – is the star undercover reporter for the tribune. He has outed drug dealing celebs, sex trafficking Oligarchs, and arms trading fundamentalists but now must get the inside track on the mucky mag trade, to please his editor and give her the fuel to shut them down once and for all. Receptionist Wendy gets his attention but when he discovers that she was the kiss and tell that brought down a cabinet minister he has to choose between career and heart with disastrous consequences.

**WENDY** – the receptionist at Bling magazine was the victim of a tabloid sting when she was involved in a steamy affair with an MP. She was in love but his advisors fed her to the lions to keep their man voter friendly. She cares for her invalid father and when she meets Godfrey who she believes is the new features editor she is prepared to put the past behind her and take a chance on her future.

**PADDY** – The wily fox of a magazine editor who has been there, done it, then gone round the block again for fun. He knows all the tricks, sees through Godfrey's subterfuge and decides to teach him a lesson he will never forget.

**CHRISTINE** – The editor of national paper, The Tribune, who when faced with her teenage son's sex life, decides that she can control his internet connection but can't prevent him indulging in the glossy, pictorial variety. She campaigns through the paper to have this anachronism of an industry banished from the top shelves for good.



Eva Green



Elisa Cuthbert

Wendy  
Gemma Arteton  
Emily Blunt  
Eva Green  
Elisa Cuthbert