**PRESS RELEASE**

**New short film shot in Folkestone explores female desire, friendship and reinvention**

This June Folkestone will become the cinematic backdrop for *The Folkestone Ladies’ Erotic Fiction Club*, a new short film that blends humour, intimacy and emotional depth in a celebration of womanhood.

Written by Sharon Burrell and directed by Emmy Award-winner Emelie Mahdavian, the short is a proof of concept for a recurring TV series. The story is a modern, sexy dramedy — a love letter to women in midlife, who are often invisible in mainstream media yet filled with stories of loss, transformation and untamed desire. The cast includes Olivia Hallinan (*Lark Rise to Candleford, Sugar Rush*), Tiff Stevenson (*The Office, People Just Do Nothing*) and Folkestone resident Claire Storey (*Call the Midwife, Hollyoaks*). They will be joined by Bill Ward (*Coronation Street, Emmerdale*) and newcomer George Osborne (*The Pendragon Cycle*).

Set against the fragile natural beauty of the English coast, the film follows a group of women as they rediscover their sense of self — and sensuality — through their relationships with one another and with the environment. Echoing the boldness of *Fleabag* and *Sex Education*, this project invites viewers into a world where societal norms are challenged with humour, heart and honesty.

Creator Sharon Burrell, who writes erotic fiction under the pen name Blythe Bradshaw, commented, “I wondered what would happen if women read erotic fiction as a group activity. The idea percolated along with a desire to write an ensemble piece for women in midlife on screen, honouring the things we lose and can’t openly grieve - our sexual desire, our body confidence - and the loss of the natural world. By writing a sexy comedy featuring climate disruption I hope to make the topics more approachable and spark conversations about difficult truths.”

Director Emelie Mahdavian commented, “After years of telling stories in remote corners of the world, I was excited to ground a narrative in a place like Folkestone — real, vibrant, and surprisingly radical. What drew me to this project was its quiet defiance: a group of women reclaiming joy, intimacy, and authorship on their own terms. That’s a revolution I want to help put on screen.”

The film is currently in pre-production, with shooting scheduled from **June 8 to 12, 2025**. Produced by Folkestone-based production company Hag Films, creators of climate stories which rewild audiences.

The film’s medical advisory partner is mymenopausecentre.com, a website and online menopause clinic that provides a holistic, evidence-based and personalised approach to the menopause, from women, for women, available across the UK.

**Press opportunities**

Interviews with **cast members**, **writer Sharon Burrell** and **director Emelie Mahdavian** are available upon request. Advisors from **mymenopausecentre.com** are also available for interview.

More information about Hag Films can be found at [www.hagfilms.com](http://www.hagfilms.com). Co-founders Cat Muir and Sharon Burrell are available for interview.

Media representatives are also welcome to visit the set during filming in June. Accreditation can be arranged for journalists interested in observing the process and speaking with the team on site.

*For interview requests, on-set accreditation, or further information, please contact:*

*Anna Chernova anna@hagfilms.com*

Instagram: [@wearehag](https://www.instagram.com/wearehag/)

TikTok: [@wearehag](https://www.tiktok.com/%40wearehag)

Headshots of the cast are available here: [Dropbox link](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/nva0t9v4h9votm1btf69i/ALBWxBo1oGIw1MjXZQUdbFU?rlkey=9oox5pahqjk8bm0p433nwnf20&e=1&dl=0)