



## [Nick De Semlyen](#)

Reviews Editor, [Empire](#) (LSJ PG Diploma 2004)

**Lorna on Nick:** There are these rare students who arrive fully formed, ready to take on the world, yet incubating for a little longer in a postgraduate course. That was Nick: word perfect work, not a comma out of place, with total focus, and without a gram of arrogance. He was constantly looking to improve and actively seeking advice on how to get a job. Too many people confuse a dream job with a dream: they just go about dreaming and not doing. Nick was already reviewing for *Empire* before he even came on the course. He knew the magazine (and all the other film media) inside out as if he already worked there. It was only a matter of time before he was there full-time for real.

**Nick on Lorna:** Being a film journalist was always a dream for me, as the tall stack of *Empires* in my parents' attic proves. It seemed out of reach, but my spell at the London School of Journalism with Lorna as my tutor gave me the foundations I needed to get the job when an opportunity came up. She's an inspirational and encouraging teacher who taught the importance of research, attention to detail and creativity, and made lessons fun. Now I'm a full-time writer at *Empire*, getting to interview my Hollywood heroes such as Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Harrison Ford, and I doubt I would be here if it hadn't been for Lorna's classes.

**Nick's advice:** If you're an aspiring journalist, here's my advice: work harder than all your rivals; don't let the inevitable rejections get you down (I flunked many job interviews); and write about the things you love — that way it never feels like a job.