

## Ghost writing:

I wrote this profile of *George Clooney* using the notes and diaries of Hollywood celebrity photographer Harry Langdon. This is an excerpt from a memoir book proposal that remains a work-in-progress.

-- Douglas Glenn Clark



## **George Clooney on the Verge**

When I met George Clooney he had not yet developed a “look.” This is common for young, handsome actors who have talent but no established image or name. After all, this was in 1989, before the hit TV series *ER* made him a star.

George and I got along really well. Without knowing where his career was going, we had to conjure up some shots that were interesting and that agents and perhaps magazines would get excited about.

Usually I begin a session with the clothes the actor is wearing when he walks in the door, so I don’t affect his comfortable, out-in-public look. George was wearing shorts and sweater, decks shoes, and his hair was fluffy. A fraternity brother or preppy look. We began there. And then we moved to the Harley Davidson: the object d’art was a new acquisition for George.

But on all shoots, the object is to work toward creating a new look. Near the end of George’s shoot I noticed a wrinkled white linen suit on the clothes rack. I grew up on black-and-white movies with the likes of Cary Grant, Errol Flynn, Humphrey Bogart, and Tyrone Power. Those larger-than-life guys in movies such as “Casablanca” and “The Maltese Falcon” had a certain aura of intrigue that left a visual impression of my younger self.

Without revealing my plan, I asked George to put on the suit and slick back his hair and said, “This shot is for me.” This is usually OK with most clients if the pre-planned shots are already in the can.

At the time, some might have scoffed at my attempt to transform George Clooney into Tyrone Power. And if you look closely in his eyes, even George seems skeptical and questioning, “What kind of shot are you trying to do?” He had never thought that a hair style like that would work on him. But it was perfect.