



## Bank Job

Hilary Powell & Daniel Edelstyn

Business & Economy / Politics & Public Policy  
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**When two artists set out to cancel \$1.5M of high-interest debt for one London community, their 'Bank Job' becomes an enlightening art activism project that speaks to the economics of our time**

“This project has been an act of liberation—freeing ourselves and hopefully others from the limited imagination and language surrounding debt, from playing the rules of the game managed in the name of the 1%, from the idea/fact that the house always wins.” —**DAN EDELSTYN**

**I**n May 2019, in the shadow of London's financial district, Canary Wharf, a golden Ford transit van explodes. After years of planning, this is the final act that cancels \$1.5 million of high interest 'toxic debt' for one London community.

This 'Big Bang 2' was the culmination of an art project by filmmaker and artist duo, Hilary Powell and Dan Edelstyn, made in response to the financial crash of 2008. Since then, COVID-19 and the economic injustices it has laid bare are yet another catalyst for a much-needed change to our financial systems. Their new book *Bank Job*, and its accompanying film, celebrate how Art can become action and how it can empower and inspire.

*Bank Job* is a white-knuckle ride into the dark heart of the global financial system. It follows the story of Powell and Edelstyn who were so fed up with an economic structure that pushes creative people like them to the fringes of society, they decided to use their passion, education, and talent to make a stand. Influenced by the Strike Debt movement in the US, they worked together with their community to buy up and abolish crippling debt by printing their own money in a disused bank in East London.

Throughout this project, behind the opaque language of loans and the defunct diagrams of debt, they discover a system flawed by design and ripe for hacking. Part daring tale, part personal memoir, and part financial education, *Bank Job* shares reflections of the authors' own experiences of debt. It examines the wider impact of a society that, for generations, has entangled the concept of money with personal identity. And for those brave enough among us, it offers a real way to change the system to meet the needs of the many, not just the few—one bank job at a time.

**To request a review copy or author interview, please contact:** Christina Butt (802) 295-6300 ext. 127, or cbutt@chelseagreen.com  
**Author Availability:** United Kingdom, or by phone or arrangement



**Hilary Powell's** work ranges from audio-visual epics, supported by Acme and Henry Moore Foundation, to print works collected by V&A and MoMA. **Dan Edelstyn** is an experienced film director and producer with multiple commissions for British TV network Channel 4. His first film *How to Re-Establish a Vodka Empire* was critically acclaimed and opened at BFI London Film Festival before being released across the UK and US.

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