

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PRESS CONTACT:

Sub-Genre Media

Brian Newman [brian@sub-genre.com](mailto:brian@sub-genre.com)

Morgan Beard [morgan@sub-genre.com](mailto:morgan@sub-genre.com)

## **'Big Men,' A Hard-hitting Investigation into the Secret World of Corruption and Greed Behind the African Oil Trade, Available on Vimeo On Demand, Saturday, July 26, 2014**

"Astonishing. . . . Dropping us into a perfect storm of avarice, this cool and incisive snapshot of global capitalism at work is as remarkable for its access as for its refusal to judge."

—Jeannette Catsoulis, *The New York Times*

New York, NY, July 24, 2014 – **BIG MEN**, directed by Rachel Boynton and executive produced by Brad Pitt, premieres on [Vimeo On Demand, Saturday, July 26, 2014](#) for an exclusive, 30-day window at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/bigmen>.

**BIG MEN** is a compelling documentary that follows what happens when a Texas oil exploration firm makes an enormous discovery off the coast of Ghana. Gaining unprecedented access to reveal big business in oil, it took seven years and several trips to Nigeria before Boynton started filming (including gaining access to the camp of one of the key militant groups The DeadlyUnderdogs). Boynton's style of filmmaking is mind-blowing: she has an incredible ability to gain an insider's access that most filmmakers dream about, perfectly positioning her to go behind closed doors and into intimate spaces. This access is critical when Kosmos makes an enormous discovery off the coast of Ghana. Christened the Jubilee Field, this deposit had the potential to return a staggering 2.2 billion to investors.

Called "a real-life "Chinatown" or "There Will Be Blood" by Variety critic Scott Foundas, **BIG MEN** is a story told as it happens, not reconstructed once the dust settles.

In 2007 US-based Kosmos Energy discovers the first oil in the history of the West African Republic of Ghana. What follows over the next five years is a twisting tale of greed and deception, which director Rachel Boynton films with razor-sharp journalistic skill. While in Ghana she makes side trips to nearby Nigeria, whose own oil reserves have been responsible for a vicious cycle of exploitation with little appreciable benefit to the country itself.

**BIG MEN** travels from company meetings about oil deals worth billions to gatherings of heavily armed militants preparing to strike. And along the way it poses vital questions about what fundamentally motivates us: Is unbridled greed an intrinsic part of human nature? And can what unites us ever be greater than what divides us?

A remarkable suspense story about international business deals and the failures of globalization with breathtaking access to everyone involved.

**BIG MEN** played in theaters in March, 2014, has a 100% critic rating on Rotten Tomatoes and will have its national broadcast premiere on Monday, Aug. 25, 2014 on PBS as part of the 27th season of POV.

**RACHEL BOYNTON, Producer/Director**

Rachel produced and directed the feature-length documentary *Our Brand Is Crisis*, filming for three years on two continents. Winner of the International Documentary Association's Best Feature Documentary Award and nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, it was named the #3 movie of 2006 by New York Magazine, and appeared on several other "Best of 2006" lists, including those of the New York Times and the LA Weekly. The film aired internationally on the BBC, HBO Latin America, ARTE, VPRO, and the CBC among others and was televised in the United States on The Sundance Channel. *Our Brand Is Crisis* also screened at multiple festivals worldwide including SXSW, the 34th New Directors/ New Film Series presented by New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Film Society of Lincoln Center, and the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, where Rachel was the winner of the Charles E. Guggenheim Emerging Artist Award. Currently George Clooney's company, Smokehouse, plans to remake *Our Brand Is Crisis* as a fiction feature. Rachel's other credits include associate producer for the feature documentary *Well-Founded Fear*, producer/director/cinematographer for *Pageant Perfect*, and associate producer of *People Like Us: Social Class in America*.

**For more information, contact:**

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Brian Newman [brian@sub-genre.com](mailto:brian@sub-genre.com)

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