



Critical Acclaim For 'Big Men'

By Rachel Boynton

"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. Critics' Pick."

—**Jeannette Catsoulis, *The New York Times***

"Boynton's most impressive feat in *Big Men* is how she takes an impossibly convoluted scenario, makes sense of it and tells a story that's riveting on its own but also serves as a parable about greed and human nature."

—**Stephanie Merry, *The Washington Post***

"Rachel Boynton's knack for access, on impressive display on this new film about the West African oil trade, should make her the envy of every documentarian. The filmmaker fills the screen with vivid personalities and high-stakes intrigue, equally at home with armed rebels as with Texas millionaires."

—**Steve Dollar, *The Wall Street Journal***

"This moral-economic drama plays out in backroom deals that Boynton records in all their stunning and at times shameless candor. Grade: A-"

—**Owen Gleiberman, *Entertainment Weekly***

"No single resource is more essential to modern life than oil, and no film offers a more incisive look at how the enormous wealth oil creates subverts the morality of individuals, corporations, even entire countries than Rachel Boynton's compelling documentary *Big Men*."

—**Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times***

"In *There Will Be Blood*, Daniel Plainview uses vivid imagery to explain his plundering of an oil rival's resources. . . . In the complex, compelling new documentary *Big Men*, the combatants can scarcely maneuver their straws without stabbing each other in the eye."

—**Chris Vognar, *Dallas Morning News***

"If you want to know how the world works, as opposed to how we are told it works—or how we wish it might work—you need to see *Big Men*, a remarkable new investigative documentary about oil, money, Africa and America."

—**Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon***

"There are three categories of schemers in *Big Men*, Rachel Boynton's illuminating documentary about the oil business in West Africa: businessmen, politicians and bandits. Sometimes, though, it's hard to tell the types apart."

—**Mark Jenkins, *NPR***

"Rachel Boynton's first-rate *Big Men* . . . peels the skin off the world itself, revealing the gears as they grind away, casting familiar doc scenarios in shades of illuminating gray."

—**Alan Scherstuhl, *The Village Voice***

“It’s no *David vs Goliath* story or some clichéd underdog triumphing over the bigger more powerful opponent narrative, and is instead a much more complex story in which the filmmaker plays a more objective eye.”

—Indiewire

“In the new season of PBS’ award-winning POV documentary series, filmmaker Rachel Boynton’s *Big Men* stands lean and tall, digging into a cautionary tale that merges *Fortune* magazine with Joseph Conrad at his grimmest.”

—Thomas Delapa, *Alternet*

“A rare look at the oil industry in Africa.”

—Kevin McDonough, *United Feature Syndicate*

“Serves as a caution that oil money and corporate interests pose dangers even to Ghana, one of the few stable democracies in western Africa. *Big Men* shapes its alternately dry and dire subject matter with a consistently keen sense of art.”

—Chris Barsanti, *PopMatters.com*

“Rachel Boynton remarkably reveals just how much influence corporate interests have on public wellbeing, and how rarely Ghanaians are part of any debate.”

—Alan Jones, *Slant Magazine*

“It’s to Boynton’s credit that through five years . . . she . . . retains a clarity of storytelling that raises provocative questions that have no easy answers. Wisely focusing on a handful of key players . . . the film places multinational concerns within a personal, relatable context.”

—Basil Tsiokos, *What (Not) to Doc*