

bullfrogfilms

THE OIL MACHINE

DIRECTED BY
EMMA DAVIE

**CAN WE BREAK
OUR ADDICTION?**



Directed by Emma Davie Produced by Sonja Henrici

“A beautiful piece of work, hypnotic & mesmerizing and incredibly emotional - I learned so much from watching this”

Janice Forsyth, BBC Radio Scotland

Country: UK | Year: 2022 | Duration: 82' | Language: English | Format: HD

THE OIL MACHINE

Synopsis

The Oil Machine explores our economic, historical and emotional entanglement with oil by looking at the conflicting imperatives around North Sea oil. This invisible machine at the core of the UK economy and society now faces an uncertain future as activists and investors demand change. Is this the end of oil?

By highlighting the complexities of how oil is embedded in society - from high finance to cheap consumer goods – The Oil Machine brings together a wide range of voices from oil company executives, economists, young activists, pension fund managers and considers how this machine can be tamed, dismantled, or repurposed.

We have five to ten years to control our oil addiction, and yet the licensing of new oil fields continues in direct contradiction with the Paris Climate Agreement. This documentary looks at how the drama of global climate action is playing out in the fight over North Sea oil.



**DIRECTOR: Emma Davie**

Emma Davie is an award-winning filmmaker who also teaches documentary film at Edinburgh College of Art. Her last film *BECOMING ANIMAL* was co-directed with Peter Mettler and premiered in competition at CPH Dox, Documenta Madrid, Edinburgh International Film Festival, and many other festivals. (Co-produced with Swiss TV). 'I AM BREATHING', co-directed with Morag McKinnon, won a Scottish BAFTA for Best Director and played in over 50 countries. Previously, she directed for many years for BBC, C4 and others - observational documentaries and films on art - work which has been nominated for a Grierson and other awards. She has worked as story consultant on many documentaries including most recently Diana El Jeiroudii's "Republic of Silence" and has taught workshops all over the world. She is a member of The Academy.

**PRODUCER: Sonja Henrici**

Sonja Henrici is an international BAFTA-nominated producer of multiple international feature documentaries: *BECOMING ANIMAL* (CPH DOX 2018); *TIME TRIAL*, a film with ex-cyclist David Millar (IDFA 2017 & SXSW); *DONKEYOTE* (2017) (EIFF Best Feature Documentary); *SEVEN SONGS FOR A LONG LIFE* (2015) (SxSW 2016); *I AM BREATHING* (2013) "One of the year's most moving films." (Hollywood Reporter); *FUTURE MY LOVE* (2012). Her films have screened on all continents, in over 60 countries. She is an innovative and resourceful creative producer with deep knowledge across the whole value chain. She joined Scottish Documentary Institute at its inception in 2004 and was instrumental in developing SDI into a flourishing talent hub for creative documentary, renowned world-wide. She was co-founder of SDI Productions (2007) and co-director of the Institute from 2013-2020, leading it to its charitable status. She was a founding trustee of the charity until 2020. In 2021 she set up Sonja Henrici Creates Ltd for all her future creative and production work. She's a member of The Academy.

SHORT CONTRIBUTOR BIOS

(selected)

Holly Gillibrand

Holly Gillibrand (born 2005) is a Scottish environmental activist. She was inspired by Greta Thunberg, and starting at age 13, she skipped school for an hour every Friday as part of the school strike for climate. She is an organizer for Fridays for Future Scotland. She was named 2019 Glasgow Times Young Scotswoman of the Year. She was also named one of 30 inspiring women on the BBC's Woman's Hour Power List 2020 and was interviewed on the show.

Jake Molloy

Jake Molloy is an Aberdeen-based regional organiser of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Union. He has spent 40 years working in the industry. He started work for the Chevron Oil Company in 1980 in the Minian Field and worked offshore for six years before a slump in the oil price caused thousands of offshore workers to be laid off. Molloy returned to offshore employment only a couple of months later to the Brent field for Shell and worked there until 1997 before being elected to the union.

Tessa Khan

Founder and Director of Uplift. Tessa is an international climate change and human rights lawyer, campaigner and strategist. She was co-founder and Co-Director of the Climate Litigation Network which supports groundbreaking strategic climate litigation around the world. She has spent more than fifteen years supporting grassroots, regional and international movements for justice and has served as an expert advisor to UN human rights bodies and national governments, while working in Thailand, Egypt, India, the US, the Netherlands and Australia. Her writing has been published in international media outlets and academic publications, and she has been invited to speak at the United Nations and events convened by The Economist, Wall Street Journal and TEDx. In 2019, Tessa was named by TIME magazine as one of fifteen women leading the fight against climate change.

Deirdre Michie

Deirdre was appointed CEO of Oil & Gas UK in May 2015. She has an LLB Hons in Scots Law and has extensive experience as a senior business leader in the oil and gas industry; covering upstream, downstream and globally. She is a member of MER – the UK Government and Industry Forum – and is also on the UK Treasury's Oil Industry Fiscal Forum. As well as being a Non-Executive board member of Scottish Water, she is also a board member of Opportunity North East and Chair of Common Data Access Limited. Deirdre is a member of the Women's Business Council, a UK Government body focused on increasing women's contribution to economic growth, and is also sponsor of AXIS. Deirdre was awarded a Fellowship from the North East of Scotland College and an OBE for her services to the Oil and Gas industry in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2018. Deirdre is also a Burgess of Aberdeen.

Kevin Anderson

Kevin Anderson is Professor of Energy and Climate Change in the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering at the University of Manchester and is a former Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. He is research active with recent publications in Climate Policy, Royal Society journals, Nature and Science. He engages widely across all tiers of government; from reporting on aviation-related emissions to the EU Parliament, advising the Prime Minister's office on Carbon Trading and having contributed to the development of the UK's Climate Change Act. Kevin has a decade of industrial experience, principally in the petrochemical industry. He is a chartered engineer and fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and is a Director of Greenstone Carbon Management.

Steve Waygood

Steve leads Aviva Investors' Global Responsible Investment team, which is responsible for integrating environmental social and corporate governance (ESG) issues across all asset classes and regions of c£350bn of assets under management. Steve was on the board of the UK Sustainable Investment & Finance association (UKSIF) from 2003 to 2010, serving as its Chairman from 2006. He was also part of the expert group that wrote the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. He has a degree in Economics and a PhD in sustainable finance. He is a faculty member at the International Corporate Governance Network as well as the Cambridge University Programme for Sustainability Leadership.



OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Our final footprint for the production for The Oil Machine documentary was 4.39 tonnes of CO2. Our biggest carbon contributor is our Travel and Transport as we filmed all over Scotland and the UK and there was additional travel during post-production within Scotland. Hiring a hybrid production car was a challenge, as was charging the car during overnight stays. We worked with a minimal crew - 2-3 people max per location, and ride-shared as much as was possible, in order to minimise travel and accommodation CO2 and crew exposure to Covid19. Our post production took place in spaces with 100% renewable energy.

The reason why we wanted to create The Oil Machine was to make a case for a more sustainable future and share the urgent message that we have five years to make significant changes and look beyond oil for our energy needs.

Despite the challenges filming during COVID restrictions, we're very proud of our production crew and advisors who helped us make the film in the most sustainable way possible.



CONTACT + PRESS MATERIALS

US TOUR

Marga Varea

Twin Seas Media

marga@twinseasmedia.com

(617) 710-5436

[Website](#)

[Trailer](#)

[Marketing Folder](#)



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and the National Lottery through Creative Scotland