

SIDES OF HORN

Written & Directed by **Toby Wosskow**
From Executive Producer **Sir Richard Branson**

www.rhinomovie.com

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

Short, Drama | 17 minutes | USA, South Africa | 2018 | Zulu, English

The first film to tell the story of Africa's poaching war from both sides of the fence

CONTACTS

USA:

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South Africa:

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LOGLINE

Two men, from the same family, fighting on opposite sides of Africa's poaching war.

SYNOPSIS

From Executive Producer Sir Richard Branson, *Sides of a Horn* is the first film to tell the story of Africa's poaching war from both sides of the fence. Based on actual events and filmed in one of the communities most directly impacted by wildlife crime, we follow the journey of two brothers-in-law fighting on opposite sides of Africa's poaching war. This dramatic short film paints an unbiased portrait of a modern war that is tearing communities apart and driving a prehistoric species to the verge of extinction.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2016, while travelling in South Africa, I found myself lost in the natural beauty of the game reserves and the wildlife who call it home. One afternoon, I was walking through the bush with a game ranger, when we stumbled across a white rhino. What struck me more than the animal's beauty was that this scene could have been taking place 50 million years ago or today. I was looking at a living, breathing time machine in a land that time forgot. However, the magic of that moment was over when I found out that this magnificent creature is being massacred to the brink of extinction.

Speaking to people living near these parks, I learned that men and women from the same communities, and sometimes even the same family, are killing each other, along with their iconic rhino, to feed an entirely unnecessary demand on the other side of the world. A nonsensical demand for rhino horn in parts of Asia is fueling a poaching war across the African continent. International crime syndicates are preying on desperate people living near protected areas and offering them a fraction of the overseas profits to poach from their own wildlife. Meanwhile, brave anti-poaching rangers are putting their lives on the line to protect the animals.

When I got back to the U.S., I continued researching and found that there was a fair amount of international media coverage on the multi-billion dollar illegal wildlife trade, but nobody was talking about the communities on the ground who were being torn apart by this war. My objective as a filmmaker became clear – I was going to expose the social impact of the illegal wildlife trade and humanize the men and women most directly affected. I wrote a dramatic short film, based on actual events, that explores how two people from the same level of poverty, the same community, and even the same family can end up on opposite sides of this war.

The poaching crisis is a complex issue and the conversation around it must go beyond simple right and wrong. By painting an unbiased portrait of this modern war and exposing both sides of the struggle, it is my hope that *Sides of a Horn* will be a catalyst that inspires a greater discussion that can lead to positive change. The human death toll is rising and the rhino is facing extinction within a decade. One strength of the short film medium is the ability to tell vital, urgent stories, and this story is as urgent as they come.

— Toby Woskow (Writer & Director)

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Toby Woskow is the writer & director of *Sides of a Horn*. Spending considerable time in the field with the men and women at the heart of Africa's poaching crisis allowed him to develop every character, story, and line of dialogue from a direct level of truth. It also made it possible to film in the townships impacted by the crisis and in the game reserves that combat poaching on a daily basis. Toby is a British-born, Los Angeles-based filmmaker who has written and directed award-winning commercials and branded content for the likes of BMW, United Nations, FUJIFILM, Oakley, and Nike.

CREDITS

Writer & Director – Toby Woskow

Executive Producer – Sir Richard Branson

Producers – Toby Woskow, Charlie Hicks, Emmanuel Castis, Erika Kloppe

Co-Producer – Aurelie Stratton

Creative Producer – Allison Triegaardt

Production Companies – Whirlow Park Pictures, Broad River Productions, The Televisionaries, YKMD Productions, Frame 48

Director of Photography – Nico Aguilar

Production Designer – Vivienne Mahloko

Editor – Anjoum Agrama

Sound Designer – Gerry Vazquez

Colorist – Bryan Smaller

Music Composer – Joshua Mosley

Cast – Welile Nzuza, Sherlton Marema, Ayanda Seoka, Dimpho Motloun, Mpho Noko

TECHNICAL

Runtime – 17:11:00

Exhibition Format – DCP, Bluray, DVD, Movie File

Aspect Ratio – 2:1

Shooting Format – Digital

Sound – Stereo

SOCIAL MEDIA & LINKS

Official Website –

www.rhinomovie.com

IMDb –

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7434998>

Facebook –

www.facebook.com/sidesofahorn

Twitter –

www.twitter.com/sidesofahorn

Instagram –

www.instagram.com/sidesofahorn

CONTENT

Official Poster –

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3pxgvtp3elikouf/AADmWPlqXBo5YxWZl1BI9pY_a?dl=0

Trailer Link –

https://youtu.be/0el9UwGt_Vk

Trailer File Downloads –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jcw5t6mjjfubi94/AAA05JozIDkSYbzVxnov9Q8sa?dl=0>

Behind-The-Scenes Film Link –

<https://youtu.be/sIWl6msIH0Y>

Behind-The-Scenes Film File Downloads –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c6uuqgrxiriq00i/AADLqW4Sim70VxjgR6o2F3sTa?dl=0>

Behind-The-Scenes Photos –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3wzhhl4nfstsoed/AAA-vxVTXmeH9dwsJ57ICuI1a?dl=0>

Film Stills –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/scfbonhrqdr96hb/AACnird1m3MKtwIGKn1LnV1ma?dl=0>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sir Richard Branson –

<https://www.virgin.com/richard-branson/sides-horn>

African Wildlife Foundation –

<https://www.awf.org/blog/sides-horn-exploring-horrors-south-africas-poaching-war>

Forbes Interview Sir Richard Branson and Director Toby Woskow –

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/risasarachan/2019/06/17/sir-richard-branson-and-director-toby-woskow-on-the-urgent-message-behind-sides-of-a-horn>

Q&A WITH WRITER-DIRECTOR TOBY WOSSKOW

Why did you choose to make a narrative film?

There have been a lot of incredible documentaries that have done so much for the poaching crisis. However, there is a large group of people that the documentaries are not reaching – the people who only watch narrative films, and the people who are not yet open to the concept of conservation. By approaching this as a dramatic, cinematic, human story, I hope we can widen our audience beyond those who are already activists. While the film is fictional, spending time with the people in the middle of the crisis allowed for every line of dialogue, every character and every story to be written from a direct level of truth.

Could you feel a sense of urgency and purpose in the filmmaking process?

Just days before we began production, Sudan, the last male Northern White Rhino, died. The day we began production, a rhino was poached in the park we were filming in. On the day we wrapped production, five Anti-Poaching Rangers were killed in Virunga National Park. When we got back to Los Angeles to do post-production, the horrific news stories continued on the other side of the world, but they felt more and more present.

What are you hoping audiences will take away from the film?

The most common mentality in fighting this crisis is “buy more guns, kill more poachers”. By humanizing the men and women on the ground, and showing the complexities of their situation, I hope our film makes people consider more sustainable solutions. We have to find ways to incentivize the people living next to protected areas to take care of their wildlife instead of poaching it. The point of the film is not to provide answers, it is to create a conversation. I believe positive change can only begin with open dialogue.

Toby is available for additional questions:

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