



FASHION BEAUTY LIVING WELLNESS ENTERTAINMENT LOCAL NEWS SHOPPING Q

The Story Of A Woman Who Sailed The World To Provide Abortions

COMMENTS

JAN 23, 2015 6:30 PM
HAYLEY MACMILLEN

6 SHARES

VESSEL

The movie *Vessel* tells the true story of both a doctor and a movement. When **Rebecca Gomperts**, MD sailed Latin America as the resident doctor on the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II, she met woman after woman who were faced with unwanted pregnancies. With no other way out, these women suffered the consequences of unsafe abortions, or gave birth to children they were unable to care for — all because abortion was illegal in their countries. Gomperts resolved to captain her own ship and sail the world providing abortions to women who couldn't otherwise access them, through a vital loophole: What happens on board a Dutch-registered ship in international waters need only adhere to Dutch law.

Gompert's organization, **Women on Waves**, made its first trip — to Ireland — in 2001. "Her idea begins as flawed spectacle, faced with governmental, religious, and military blockade," **writes** *Vessel's* director and producer Diana Whitten. "But, with each roadblock comes a more refined mission, until Rebecca realizes she can use new technologies to bypass law — and train women to give themselves abortions using WHO-researched protocols with pills. From there, we witness her create an underground network of emboldened, informed activists who trust women to handle abortion themselves." *Vessel*, a production of Wildfire Studios, was released last year and is now available to **rent or purchase online**. Its hour and 27 minutes minutes trace how one improbable idea became a movement — a beautiful testament to the power of women fighting for other women.

FOR AN ENDLESS FEED OF COLORFUL INSPIRATION

[FOLLOW](#) REFINERY29 ON *Instagram*



SHARE THIS STORY

TWEET THIS STORY

NEWS / Vessel Movie Rebecca Gomperts Women On Waves Abortion

FROM OUR PARTNERS



Anne Hathaway Has The Best Response To Amal Clooney
HUFFPOST STYLE



It's Crazy How Much the "Perfect Body" Has Changed in
GREATIST



IT HAPPENED TO ME: After 2 Months of Dating, My
XOJANE



Have You Already Ditched Your New Year's Resolutions?
HUFFPOST HEALTHY LIVING



The French Girl's Guide To No-Makeup Makeup
HUFFPOST STYLE

powered by PubFusion

1 Comment Refinery29

Login

Sort by Best

Share Favorite

1 COMMENTS

COMPANY

ABOUT PRESS ADVERTISING FEEDBACK WE'RE HIRING R29 NEWS SITEMAP
VIEW MOBILE SITE

CONNECT WITH R29



© 2015 REFINERY29 TERMS PRIVACY MADE WITH IN NYC