

# Chapman student is a BUDDING MEDIA MOGUL

Oliver Bogner, 20, produces shows for TLC, Lifetime and other networks.

BY FERMIN LEAL  
STAFF WRITER

**O**liver Bogner says, above all, he's an idea man. Whether he's stuck in traffic, sitting in class or chatting with friends, the Chapman University student's mind is constantly churning out ideas that he hopes to turn into the next great television show.

Bogner, 20, already runs his own Hollywood production company, with his shows airing on cable networks, including Lifetime and TLC.

He's produced such television shows as "My Five Wives," a reality show about a Utah polygamist with five wives and 24 children; "Kim of Queens," about a sassy pageant coach; and "Addicts & Animals," on a sobriety program in Anaheim that uses pooches and other pets to treat recovering addicts.

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ED CRISOSTOMO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oliver Bogner has an office at the Hollywood Center Studios. The Chapman University student puts 400 miles a week on his vehicle driving between work and classes.

# MOGUL: Life as high school DJ launches reality-show career

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Bogner also is working on deals to develop other reality shows with VH1, A&E and the Discovery Channel.

The Chapman junior is considered one of the entertainment industry's up-and-coming executives. This month, Forbes Magazine named Bogner to its "30 Under 30" list of young entrepreneurs, entertainers, sports figures and tech leaders.

"My heart is in television," Bogner said in his office on the Hollywood Center Studios lot. "My goal is always to tell interesting stories through larger-than-life characters."

Bogner's career began after his 13th birthday, when he persuaded his grandmother to give him \$1,000 for his bar mitzvah. He then bought audio equipment and became a disc jockey for neighborhood parties in Beverly Hills, where he grew up.

By 15, Bogner was charging \$1,000 per party, making about \$100,000 a year.

His father, an independent film producer, told him his life would make a great reality show. Bogner loved the idea and produced "Party Prince 90210." He sold the show to E! Entertainment. He created a pilot. But the network eventually declined to pick up the series.

"I was devastated," Bogner recalled. "But it was the best thing to happen in my life. That's when I decided this was what I wanted to do for a living."

At 18, he enrolled at Chapman in Orange while working to build his production company, Bogner Entertainment.

"Chapman was more accommodating than other schools," the television/broadcast journalism major said. "The school also has a fantastic reputation in the entertainment industry. It's a great place to network because a lot of the faculty and alumni are working across the industry."

Bogner carries a full class load while working five days a week at his Hollywood office that is south of Hollywood Boulevard and dominated by a white board with ideas scribbled on it.

He drives his Mercedes Benz C250 nearly 400 miles a week between Chapman and the office. He bought the car new while in high school, with DJ profits.

He crashes at night at his parents' Los Angeles-area home or at his Chapman frat house. At work, a small staff that includes his parents, Jonathan and Cindy, helps run the business. His father is head of production, while mom, a former attorney, oversees business affairs.

His younger brother isn't on staff.

## Oliver Bogner

**Age:** 20

**Hometown:** Beverly Hills

**School:** Junior at Chapman University

**Occupation:** Executive producer of Bogner Entertainment

**Projects/productions:** In 2013, his company sold 16 reality shows to 10 networks. They include "Dance Kids ATL" for TLC; "My Five Wives" for TLC; "Kim of Queens" for Lifetime; "Flipping Divas" for HGTV; "Parking Games" for Spike, and "Crystal Cowboys" for NatGeo.

**Online:** bognerentertainment.com and twitter.com/Oliver\_Bogner



ED CRISOSTOMO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chapman University student Oliver Bogner is a 20-year-old executive producer who runs his own production company and is currently producing "Kim of Queens" for Lifetime TV.

"One of the best things I have going for me is that my parents are so supportive in everything I do," he said.

Oliver Bogner will graduate from Chapman in spring 2015, when he plans

to devote his full attention to his company. By then, he hopes to have a slew of reality shows in production.

Reality shows are cheaper and faster to produce, he said. Eventually, he wants

to delve into scripted shows.

"I'm learning a great deal every day about this industry," he said. "At my age, it might be easy to get discounted. I have to show

them, "This kid can deliver: I have to keep working hard."

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## '30 Under 30'

The third annual list published by Forbes Magazine tallies the brightest stars under the age of 30 in 15 fields. Forbes describes the honorees as "founders and funders, brand builders and do-gooders who aren't waiting for a proper bump up the career ladder. Their goals are way bigger - and perfectly suited to the dynamic entrepreneurial, and impatient digital world they grew up in."

### THE LIST

Chapman University junior Oliver Bogner was selected for his influence in Hollywood. Bogner's category includes some well-known Hollywood heavyweights. Here's a sample.



**Jennifer Lawrence**, actress in movies, including "The Hunger Games" series and "American Hustle." She won an Oscar for "Silver Linings Playbook."



**Olivia Wilde**, actress in movies, including "Her," "Rush" and "In Time."



**Lena Dunham**, writer and creator of the HBO series "Girls."



**Megan Ellison**, producer of movies, including "Zero Dark Thirty," "American Hustle," "Spring Breakers."



**Michael B. Jordan**, actor on television shows "The Wire" and "Friday Night Lights" and the movie "Fruitvale Station."

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