

A FILM BY COSIMA DANNORITZER

# TIME THIEVES

YOUR TIME IS THEIR BUSINESS.

## PRESS KIT

 POLAR STAR FILMS

 YUZU  
Productions

[WWW.TIMETHIEVESFILM.COM](http://WWW.TIMETHIEVESFILM.COM)





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**“How is  
it that we  
became a  
culture that  
began to  
measure  
life by clock  
time?”**

Robert Levine



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PRODUCTION

Written and directed by  
Producers

Cosima Dannoritzer  
Carles Bruguera, Christian Popp and Marieke van den Bersselaar

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Duration  
Screening Format  
Shooting Format  
Video / Audio

52 min // 84 min  
HD  
HD  
Colour & Black and White / Stereo

### WORLD SALES

Website

**autlook**  
FILMSALES  
[www.autlookfilms.com](http://www.autlookfilms.com)  
✉ [welcome@autlookfilms.com](mailto:welcome@autlookfilms.com)

### FILM WEBSITE

[www.timethievesfilm.com](http://www.timethievesfilm.com)

### CONTACT

For festival screeners and interviews, please contact the co-producers

**POLAR STAR FILMS**  
✉ [info@polarstarfilms.com](mailto:info@polarstarfilms.com)

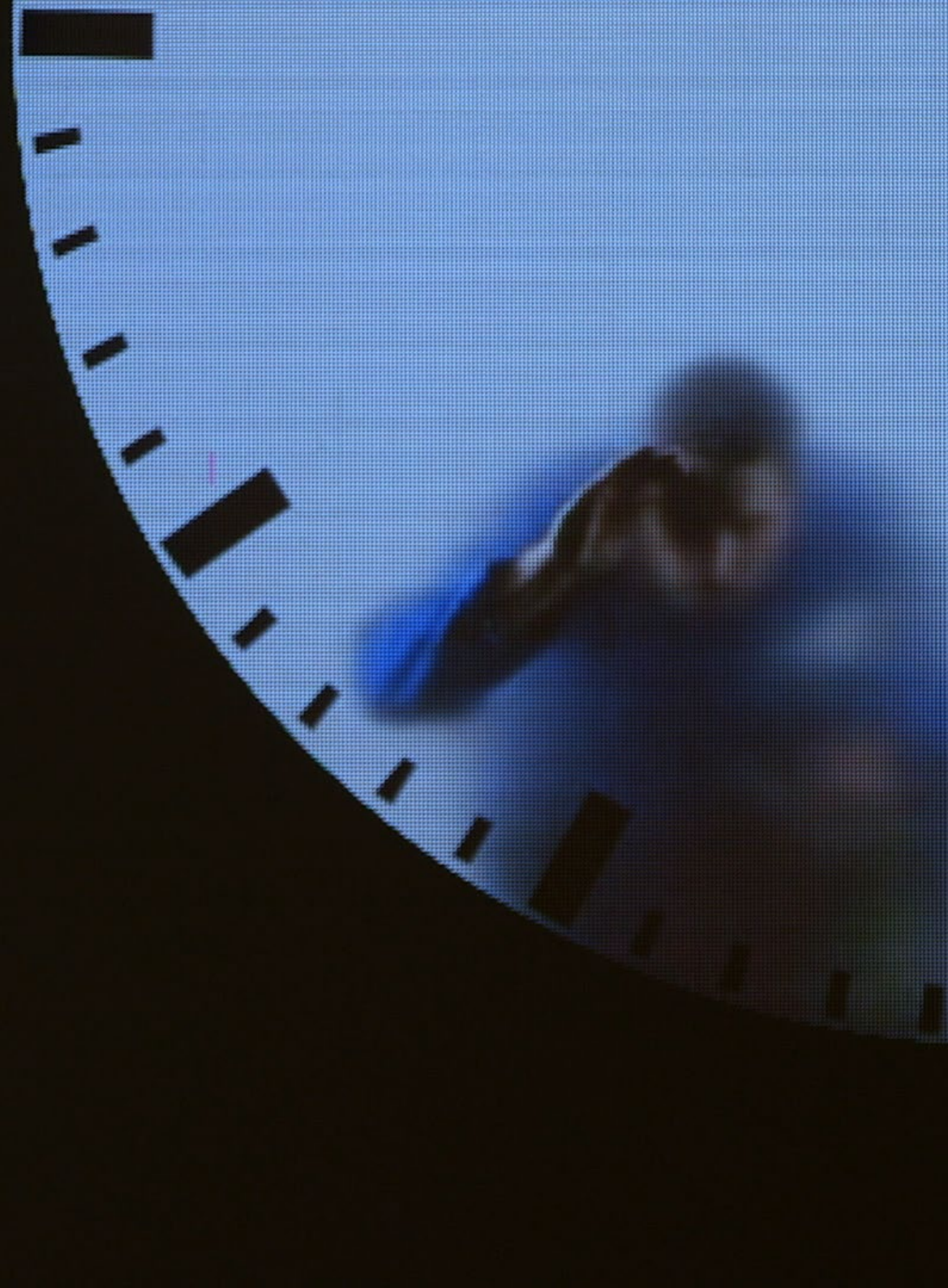
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## LOG LINE

**Your time is their business! Time Thieves is an eye-opening investigation into how our time became a currency; why ‘time poverty’ is on the rise; and, how the more we try to save time, the less we have.**



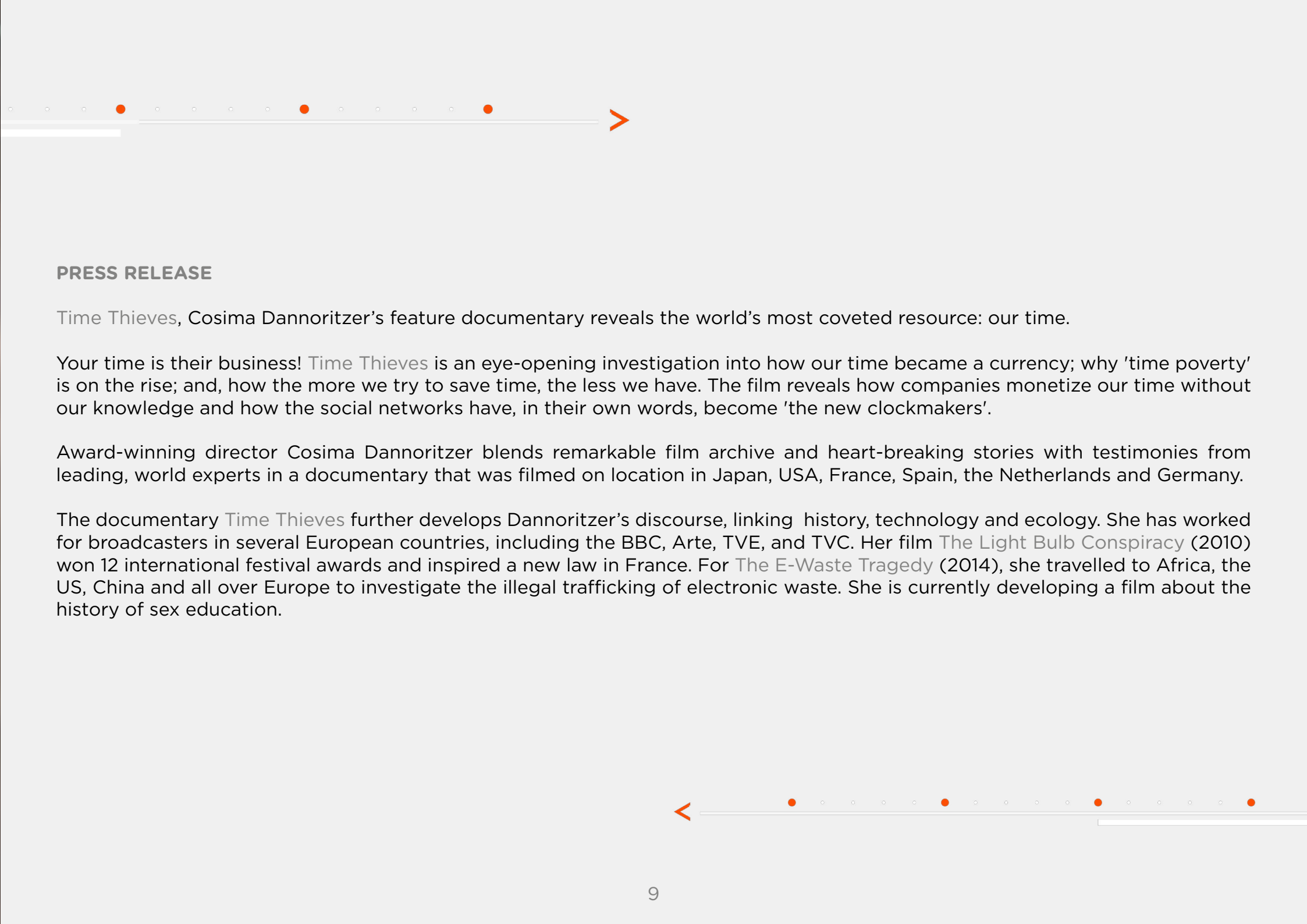
## SYNOPSIS

Forget water, oil and rare earths - there is a new resource everyone wants: our time. *Time Thieves* reveals how companies monetize our time without our knowledge and how the social networks have, in their own words, become ‘the new clockmakers’.

Who hasn’t come across the situation where an airline has us printing our own boarding passes and checking in our own luggage, saving the company a fortune in working hours? Who hasn’t spent hours assembling a piece of furniture, or struggled with an automatic cashier? Haven’t we all asked ourselves who should be paying whom for doing all the work?

The documentary *Time Thieves* travels the globe to investigate how time has become money, how the clock has taken over both our working and personal lives, and how we can claim back control over this precious but finite resource.





**PRESS RELEASE**

Time Thieves, Cosima Dannoritzer's feature documentary reveals the world's most coveted resource: our time.

Your time is their business! *Time Thieves* is an eye-opening investigation into how our time became a currency; why 'time poverty' is on the rise; and, how the more we try to save time, the less we have. The film reveals how companies monetize our time without our knowledge and how the social networks have, in their own words, become 'the new clockmakers'.

Award-winning director Cosima Dannoritzer blends remarkable film archive and heart-breaking stories with testimonies from leading, world experts in a documentary that was filmed on location in Japan, USA, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Germany.

The documentary *Time Thieves* further develops Dannoritzer's discourse, linking history, technology and ecology. She has worked for broadcasters in several European countries, including the BBC, Arte, TVE, and TVC. Her film *The Light Bulb Conspiracy* (2010) won 12 international festival awards and inspired a new law in France. For *The E-Waste Tragedy* (2014), she travelled to Africa, the US, China and all over Europe to investigate the illegal trafficking of electronic waste. She is currently developing a film about the history of sex education.



## DIRECTOR'S MOTIVATION

Looking at my diary one morning, I couldn't help noticing the dictatorship of the clock in my life, and I asked myself: How did we come to be this way? Why do we always feel compelled to try and save time? Why do there never seem to be enough hours in the day? And was it always acceptable to plan social engagements literally weeks and months ahead, instead of responding to our moods or the need of a friend whenever necessary, even at short notice?

I also couldn't help noticing that all day long, many people are after my time - for their profit! This starts with the daily phonecalls from market researchers asking for 'just a couple of minutes' and then launching into a 20-minute survey. Airlines ask me to do my own booking, check-in, luggage processing and invoice-printing. Earlier this week, the waiter at the new restaurant around the corner from my house got cross with me because on the way out I hadn't left my plate in the bucket at the kitchen door. Then, getting back home, I felt guilty for having had a long lunch with a friend instead of putting in a full eight hours of work.

The mantra 'time is money' is everywhere!

With this film, I would like to explore the origins of this obsession, its impact on our lives and our society, and the new resistance against the dictatorship of the clock which is steadily on the rise. Can we reclaim control of our time?

Cosima Dannoritzer



Photograph by Aleix Font, courtesy from DocsBarcelona.

## DIRECTOR Cosima Dannoritzer

Cosima Dannoritzer is a documentary filmmaker with a special interest in history, ecology and the impact of technology on society. She has worked for broadcasters in several European countries, including the BBC, Arte, TVE, and TVC.

Her film about the history of planned obsolescence, *The Light Bulb Conspiracy* (75 min, 2010), was broadcast in 40+ countries, won 12 international festival awards, and inspired a new law in France.

For *The E-Waste Tragedy* (86 min, 2014), she travelled to Africa, the US, China and all over Europe to investigate the illegal trafficking of electronic waste. She is currently developing a film about the history of sex education.

Filmography (selection) :

- *If Rubbish Could Speak* (2003)
- *The Light Bulb Conspiracy* (2010)
- *The E-Waste Tragedy* (2014)





**“The consumer is seen as a workforce that is plentiful, motivated and free of charge”**

Marie-Anne Dujarier





## INTERVIEWEES

### USA

**Robert Levine**  
Author of 'A Geography of Time'

**Oliver Gottfried**  
Oxfam America

**Jonathan Crary**  
Author of '24/7: Late Capitalism and the Ends of Sleep'

**Jane Lancaster**  
Author of 'Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth'

**Maria and Hilda**  
Poultry line workers

**Natasha Dow Schüll**  
Author of 'Addiction by Design'



**Spencer Greenberg**  
Mathematician

**Junichi Kimura**  
CEO, Iken Engineering

**Emiko Teranishi**  
Karoshi Victims Support Network

### JAPAN

**Heihachi Aoyama**  
Former supervisor, National Labour Standards Federation

**Masahito Sawaguchi and Hiroaki Taguchi**  
Employees, Iken Engineering

**Hiroshi Kawahito**  
Labour lawyer / Founder of the Karoshi Hotline





**Kengo Mochizuki**  
Efficiency consultant

**FRANCE**  
.....

**Marie-Anne Dujarier**  
Sociologist, La Sorbonne, Paris

**Magali Combal**  
Time management coach

**Jacques Gapillard**  
Time historian

**Lydie and Christophe Germain**  
Instigators of the French 'Law of Mathys'

**SPAIN**  
.....

**Francisco Javier Galindo**  
Official timekeeper of Spain  
Royal Naval Observatory



**Fabian Mohedano**  
Member of Parliament, Catalonia

**NETHERLANDS**  
.....

**Edwin Sander**  
Founder, Food Creativ

**Laura Kapper**  
Dutch hotel and catering trade union

**GERMANY**  
.....

**Jan Philipp Menn**  
Research engineer, TU Berlin

**Klaus Müller**  
Federation of German Consumer  
Organisations

**UK**  
...

**Jawad Qasrawi**  
Hazards Magazine



## PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Established by Carles Brugueras in 1997, Polar Star Films is an independent audiovisual production company. Based in Barcelona, the company has a track record in creative documentaries, short fiction and advertising.

Through an interdisciplinary creative team, Polar Star Films aims to create high quality documentaries for a broad and international audience. Polar Star Films has been co-producing with broadcasters such as ARTE, BBC, SWR/NDR, France Télévisions, Al Jazeera, TVE and TVC.

- FREIGHTENED The Real Price of Shipping (2016, 83 min)
- Falciani's Tax Bomb (2015, 88 min)
- Google and the World Brain (2013, 89 min)
- Con el viento [Facing the Wind] (2017, 108 min)

YUZU Productions is a Paris-based film production company created in 2012 by Fabrice Estève and Christian Popp, two producers who have put their international experience and knowledge in common to produce high quality and challenging factual media content for television, the cinema screen and digital media. In 6 years YUZU Productions has produced 30 hours of documentaries, most of them in coproduction with international producers, and with broadcasters such as ARTE, France Televisions, Smithsonian Networks, Showtime, Al Jazeera Networks, ZDF, CCTV10, RTS, RTBF, VRT, SVT, TVC, TVE, YLE, S4C, TG4, CBC, UR, RTP, Ceska Televise, ERT... The company has been twice nominated for the prestigious Procirep Best Documentary Producer of the Year award in 2015 and 2017.

- Brains in Danger (2017, 56 min)
- Becoming Cary Grant (2017, 86 / 52 min)
- Cyborgs Among Us (2017, 52 / 76 min)
- The E-Waste Tragedy (2014, 90 min)





PARTNERS

In co-production with



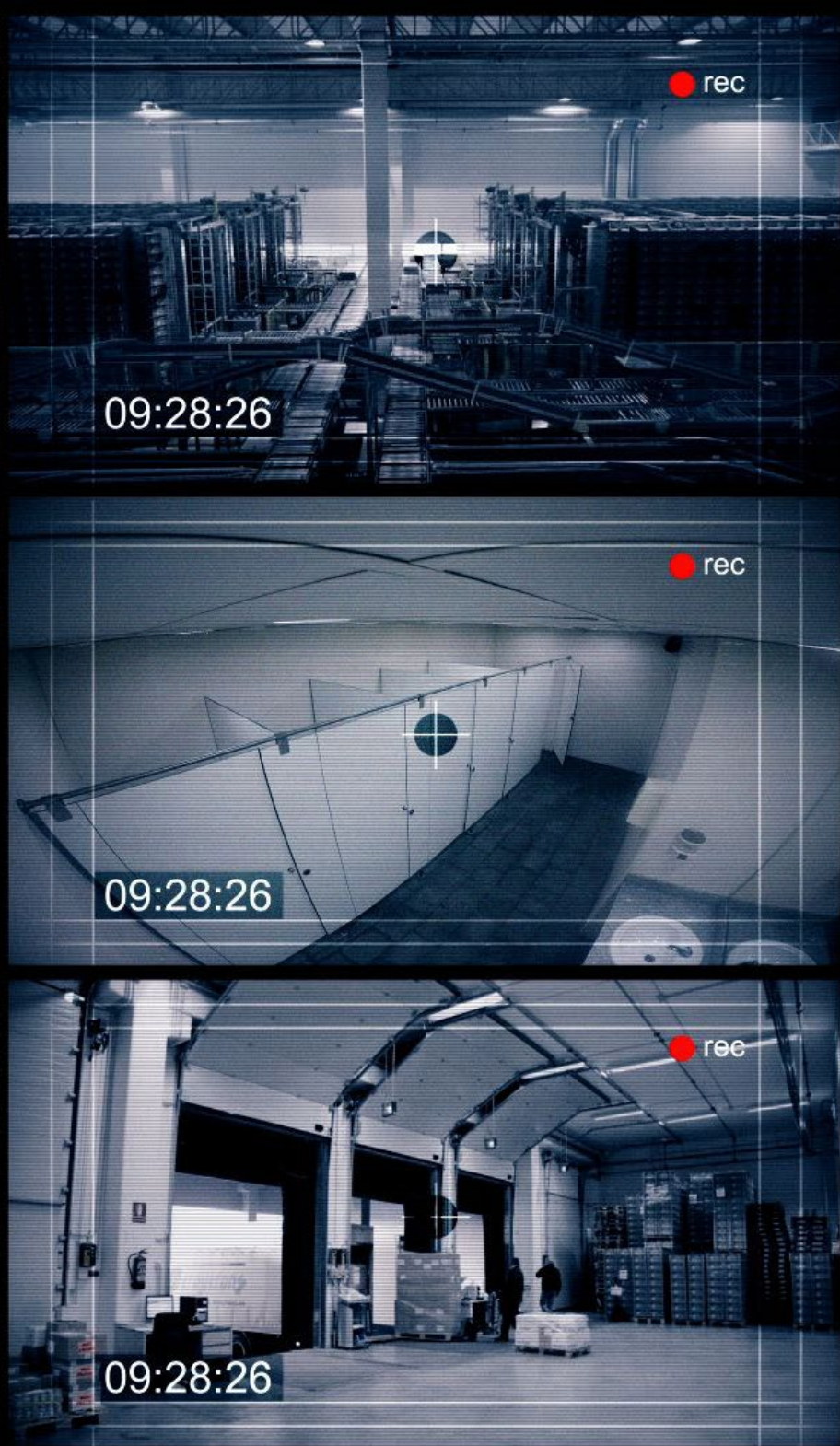
In association with



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Training initiative



CREDITS

Written and Directed by  
Cosima Dannoritzer

Producers  
Carles Brugueras  
Christian Popp  
Marieke van den Bersselaar

Editors  
Guillermo Cobo  
Georgia Wyss

Camera  
Nina Bernfeld

Sound Recording  
Nicolas Samarine

Music  
Marta Andrés & Joan Gil

Script Consultants  
Ashley Coupland  
David Kwok  
Madeleine Sheahan

Narrator  
Sarah Davison

Additional Research  
Sara Beltrame  
Davina Breillet  
Tomomi Kitamura

Archive Research  
Fiona McLaughlin  
Eugénie Gaubert  
Lisa Berger

Production Managers  
Júlia Aragay  
Katya Laraison

Production Assistant  
Núria Palenzuela

Post-Production Managers  
Rose Kowalski  
Sofia Saa

Assistant Editor  
Luis Alfaro

Motion Graphic Design  
Jordi Capdevila  
Guillem Castellvi

Motion Graphic Composers  
Joan Aliaga  
Alexis Gallardo  
Clara Pons

Sound Mix  
Carlos Jiménez

Colour Grading  
Alexandre Sadowsky

Additional Camera  
Jordi Azategui  
Carla D’Arnaude  
Juan González  
Christian Marohl

Additional Sound Recording  
Esther Marquina  
Amanda Villavieja  
Sven Klöpper

Poster Design  
Marcel Weisheit

Production Secretary  
Joanaina Font

Fixers  
Araceli Carrero  
Liz Dautzenberg  
Mathilde Faisant  
Jelani “West” Jones  
Christopher Markisz  
Joel Nizza  
Jose María Parcerisa  
Jay Rozanski

Junior Production Assistants  
Neus Bou  
Mireia González  
Clément Lempereur  
Johanna Thomé  
Judit Torrent  
Xavier Utiel







## CONTACT

### PRODUCTION COMPANIES



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### WORLD SALES



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