A FILM BY COSIMA DANNORITZER

TIME THIEVES

YOUR TIME IS THEIR BUSINESS.

PRESS KIT

Quote: “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 Cosima Dannoritzer

ProducersCarles Brugueras, Christian Popp

and Marieke van den Bersselaar

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

Duration52 min // 84 min

Screening Format HD

Shooting FormatHD

Video / AudioColour & Black and White / Stereo

**WORLD SALES**

**AUTLOOK FILMSALES**

Websitewww.autlookfilms.com

welcome@autlookfilms.com

**FILM WEBSITE** www.timethievesfilm.com

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

info@polarstarfilms.com

info@yuzu-productions.com

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

**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)

Quote: “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’

Jane Lancaster - Author of ‘Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth’

Oliver Gottfried - Oxfam America

Maria and Hilda - Poultry line workers

Jonathan Crary - Author of ‘24/7: Late Capitalism and the Ends of Sleep’

Natasha Dow Schüll - Author of ‘Addiction by Design’

Spencer Greenberg - Mathematician

JAPAN

Heihachi Aoyama - Former supervisor, National Labour Standards Federation

Junichi Kimura - CEO, Iken Engineering

Masahito Sawaguchi and Hiroaki Taguchi - Employees, Iken Engineering

Emiko Teranishi - Karoshi Victims Support Network

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 Gapaillard - 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

Polar Star Films

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

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

Arte, TVE, TVC

In association with

Servus, SRF, RTS, YLE, YESTV

Supported by

MEDIA, ICEC, CNC, Procirep-Angoa

Training initiative

Documentary Campus

Written and Directed by

Cosima Dannoritzer

Producers

Carles Brugeras

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

Translators

Kayoko Iki

Accountants

Philippe Bedfert

Sterenn Hall

Geòrgia Simón

Legal Advisor

Thaïs Tarragó

Archive Sources

Amazon Inc.

Critical Past

Dept. de Documentació de TV3

Fondo Documental RTVE

For Alan - Alamy Stock Photo

Freepik

Hazards Magazine

Jesse Venbrux

Klaus Hülse, leuchtturm-welt.net

Library of Congress General Coll.

NHK

NBCUniversal Archives

Oxfam America

Parliamentary Record. Unit, UK

Rob Wilson - Shutterstock

Valeria Aksakova

Youtube - odakyu1110

AP Archives

Chuck Gilbreth Carey

Christophe & Lydie Germain

Produccions El Videocassette

Emiko Teranishi

FONO

Flyingrhino – Shutterstock

Framepool

George Eastman House Coll.

Heihachi Aoyama

Net Films

Oddball Films

Prelinger Archives

Ruptly

The Odd Shop

Seat

Marvin E. Mundel Industrial Engineering Collection, Archives Center - National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

CBS News Archives – Wazee Digital

Eadweard Muybridge, 1887 - Boston Public Library

National Archives & Records Administration

Purdue University Libraries, Karnes Archives & Special Collections

Rossiiskaya Teleradioveshatelnaya Kompania

RussianArchives.com - Roskosmosa

INA - How Paris gives the Hour to the World, 1959

INA - Le service de l'heure à l'Observatoire national de Paris, 1951

Films Collection

Au Soleil de Marseille, 1937

Director : Pierre-Jean Ducis

Si J'étais le Patron, 1934

Director : Richard Pottier

The Hurricane Express, 1932

Director : J.P. Mac Gowan, Armand Schaefer

Cendrillon, 1899

Director : Georges Melies

A Woman In Grey, 1920

Director : James Vincent

Getty Images

Chuck & Sarah Fishbein

BFI HD Collection

Sons of Thunder Enterprises Inc.

Lumi Images Video

The March of Time

VisitBritain

Chris Sattlberger

Pond 5

opa4opa

LazyFocus

VideoFort

hotelfoxtrot

gustavisonfilms

artem\_ka

blvdone

MichhaelD

Dualstock

Spotmatik

artstudio

barselona\_dreams

gcrook

mentat3d

Locations

Kitchen Republic, Amsterdam, NL

Schiphol Airport, NL

Wilde Zwijnen, Amsterdam, NL

Come una volta, Barcelona, ESP

Escola La Rambleta del Clot, Barcelona, ESP

Farmàcia Carrillo, Barcelona, ESP

Koku Kitchen, Barcelona, ESP

Parlament de Catalunya, Barcelona, ESP

Real Instituto y Observatorio de la Armada, ESP

Badoit, Saint-Galmier, FRA

ZUT !, Paris, FRA

Sheffield City Hall, UK

TU Berlin, Berlin, GER

Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband, Berlin, GER

Oxfam America, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, USA

New England Wireless & Steam Museum, USA

New York University, New York, USA

Buildme Consulting Office, Tokyo, JPN

Kawahito Law Office, Tokyo, JPN

Iken Engineering, Tokyo, JPN

Rakusei High School, Kyoto, JPN

Yasaka Shrine, Kyoto, JPN

A production by

Polar Star Films

YUZU Productions

in co-production with

ARTE France - Unité Société et Culture

Fabrice Puchault

Commissioning Editor

Karen Michael

Head of Production

Françoise Tsitsichvili

Post-production Manager

Isabelle Zaborovski

Corporación RTVE -

Executive Producer

Andrés Luque

Televisió de Catalunya -

Executive Producer

Jordi Ambròs

Editorial Director

Joan Salvat

in association with

Servus TV - Sylvia Schmöller

SRF - Christa Ulli

RTS - Irène Challand & Gaspar Lamunière

YLE - Jenny Westergard

YES TV - Avital Lavi

with support from

MEDIA Creative Europe Programme of the European Union

CNC

ICEC

PROCIREP/ANGOA

and developed at

the Documentary Campus Masterschool 2014

International Sales

Autlook Filmsales

CONTACT

**PRODUCTION COMPANIES**

Carrer del Rosselló 320, local 1

08025 Barcelona

Spain

wwww.polarstarfilms.com

+34 93 200 47 77

info@polarstarfilms.com

30 rue Colonel Delorme

93100 Montreuil

France

www.yuzu-productions.com

+33 1 74 73 31 30

info@yuzu-productions.com

**WORLD SALES**

Spittelberggasse 3/14

1070 Vienna

Austria

+43 720 34 69 34

welcome@autlookfilms.com