

A FILM BY COSIMA DANNORITZER

TIME THIEVES

YOUR TIME IS THEIR BUSINESS.

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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 Brugueras, 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

OUTLOOK
FILMSALES
www.outlookfilms.com
✉ welcome@outlookfilms.com

FILM WEBSITE

www.timethievesfilm.com

CONTACT

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

POLAR STAR FILMS
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YUZU
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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

Magali Combal
Time management coach

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

FRANCE

Jacques Gapillard
Time historian

SPAIN

Francisco Javier Galindo
Official timekeeper of Spain
Royal Naval Observatory

Marie-Anne Dujarier
Sociologist, La Sorbonne, Paris



Fabian Mohedano
Member of Parliament, Catalonia

Laura Kapper
Dutch hotel and catering trade union

Klaus Müller
Federation of German Consumer
Organisations

NETHERLANDS

GERMANY

UK

Edwin Sander
Founder, Food Creativ

Jan Philipp Menn
Research engineer, TU Berlin

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 Televisie, 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



Supported by



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 Klöpffer

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
Judith Torrent
Xavier Utiel

CONTACT

PRODUCTION COMPANIES



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