

Submissions for 2021 Now Open!



Oxford Film Festival

FEST - CINEMA +
MORE

[Home](#) / [About](#) / [Sponsor](#) / [Store](#) / [Upcoming Events](#) / [17th Annual OFF \(Virtual\)](#) / [OFF to the Drive-In + VOD](#)

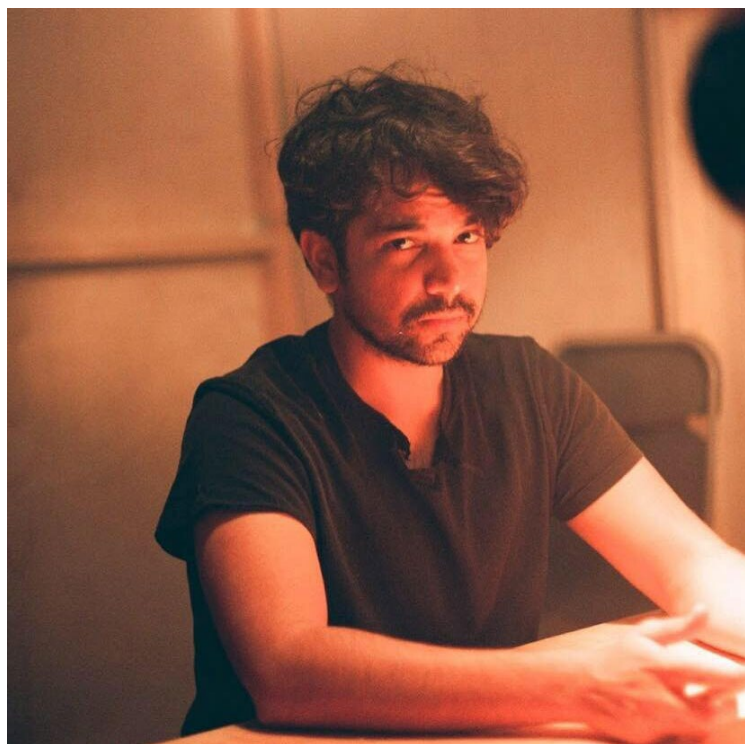


OXFORD FILM FESTIVAL BLOG

Q&A with The Timekeeper

May 06, 2020

Read a Q&A between Programmer Donna Kosloskie and filmmaker Sohil Vaidya with documentary short The Timekeeper. The film is available to rent until Friday here:



<https://watch.eventive.org/2020oxff/play/5e922736664253003947ebe6>

Q: You mentioned in your film submission you met your main character (a watchmaker and repairman of mechanical clocks) when looking for a place to give away an old grandfather clock in your possession, describe entering his shop for the first time.

It was fascinating. The entire place was full with antique clocks. Some of them were so different that I would have never known they existed. Place was very small, cramped but it had its own character. Walls had different textures cause of moss, cracks and scales. I felt the sense of familiarity with this place. While growing up my city changed alot. Old ancient structures and buildings were vanishing, getting replaced by posh skyscrapers. My first home where I spent first ten years of my life was something similar in the essence like Mr.Deshapande's shop.

Mr. Deshpande was fun to have conversation with. He talked with me passionately about all the ancient clocks and why he loves repairing them. His love for preserving whats valuable to him made me connect with him on the personal level. As we talked more, I also felt that there is wonderful cultural relevance of the things he is talking about. I asked him if I could make a short documentary about him. He happily agreed.

Q: The shop you film in is like its own microcosm, what was it like to film and immerse yourself entirely in someone else's universe?

It was different and it was not, both. Yes, I am not a craftsman and never even have remotely came near this particular subject in my life. But the subject of preserving things which are vanishing in the time is very dear to me. Getting to know details about antique clocks was fascinating. Mr. Deshapande also has made clocks which work on different planets

orbital times, a clock which moves anti clockwise, and many more things! Some of these things never ended in documentary, as I mainly wanted to focus on his struggle to keep this old art of repairing vintage clocks alive.

Q: I never, ever ask this question because everyone asks this question but-- What camera did you use to shoot your film? It had a richness, a texture, that felt really immediate, much like the tactile, personal quality of the subject itself.

This was a passion project and I honestly had no money to rent any professional camera. We shot on Cannon 6D, a basic DSLR. I definitely had a talented cinematographer friend, Rohin Raveendran. We created a profile on the camera which shoots as much flat as possible. We talked about the look and feel of the documentary and decided to mostly shoot in natural light. I color graded the film with Kodak Film LUTS. Cause the footage was very well shot, I could do alot in the color grading process. I tried to mimic the look of the film stock, and added grain and a film texture on it. When I showed it to the team, they were very happy with the results.

Q: In your film, a passerby sends a letter to your subject that speaks of a clock outside of his shop as "giving back to society," a selfless service that quietly brings people together, do you think documentaries serve a similar purpose? Do you see your film doing the same in some way?

I hope thats what art should do. It should give something to the society. It should create sense of togetherness, tell stories which would make us learn new things about our surroundings. Hopefully this film have fulfilled the same purpose by telling a story of a craftsman and his craft of repairing analog clocks, which is slowly fading in era of digital totality.

[Oxford Film Festival /](#)

[Oxford Film Festival](#)

[Virtual Oxford Film Fest, The Timekeeper, Docu, Documentary](#)

 0 Likes

 Share

[OFF PRESENTS 4TH VIRTUAL FILM FEST ...](#)

[OFF PRESENTS 3RD VIRTUAL FILM FEST ...](#)