

Reviews of the Documentary Film WATERMARK

Letter to the Dover Express from Colin Bailey:

BUCKLAND MILL EMPLOYEES RE-UNITED

Dover Arts Development (DAD) under the directorship of Joanna Jones and Clare Smith are very busy making a film about papermaking at Buckland Mill and the people who worked there. The Mill closed in 2000 and except for the small group of the Wiggins Teape Pensioners' Association and the Gateway Bowls Club there is little contact between ex-employees except on a personal basis.

However, last Friday night DAD changed all that because after a great deal of interviewing and contacting the employees, they invited them to a "get together" evening at the Dover Harbour Board Social Club. More than 200 employees responded to the invitation and turned up to a fantastic evening of meeting old friends, trying to remember names and faces and reminiscing over old times. It really is impossible to put into words the amount of pleasure it gave everyone. A truly super evening put on for us by DAD.

On behalf of everyone I would like to thank DAD so much for a wonderful evening which none of us ever expected to experience. In a way it was a "Spin off" from the project that they are doing.

To Joanna and all her team thank you, thank you, thank you.

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Review by Artist Chris Burke:

Scenes shot in the dark interior of the Buckland Mill open this documentary film. The opposition continues between voice/s, shots of the factory, machinery - and is maintained throughout the film as a cinematographic collage, a tapestry of sight and sound, evoking through the memories of the speakers the life and activity that once inhabited these now derelict buildings.

The title "WATERMARK" poetically encapsulates the subject matter of the film - a paper mill which used to produce high-quality paper and which was abruptly

shut down some years ago. Postcards and old images and footage from an old video film, taken by one of the ex-workers, have been skilfully edited in to enrich the visual experience of the montage. There is also a highly evocative film score by Robert Jarvis, which hauntingly counterpoints the notes of the piano with the rhythm of the machinery, and is interspersed between the voices of these Dover people, who are given the freedom to tell their individual stories in informal settings and without the intrusion of an interviewer.

All in all, an excellent piece of film-work, executed with poetry and imagination - and without cliché. It is clear that it must have taken a good deal of research and organisation to have produced this film. I congratulate Joanna Jones and Clare Smith of Dover Arts Development, and the Director, Marianne Kapfer, and, indeed, all those whose contributions made this film such a success.
(Chris Burke, Artist)

WATERMARK

Directed by Marianne Kapfer

Sound Design &

Original Sound Score by
Robert Jarvis

Written and Edited by

Marianne Kapfer & Dominic de Vere

Produced by

Dover Arts Development Ltd (DAD)
Joanna Jones & Clare Smith

Running time: 90 min. / UK 2011 / English / Colour & B/W

Further information can be found at
www.watermark-film.com