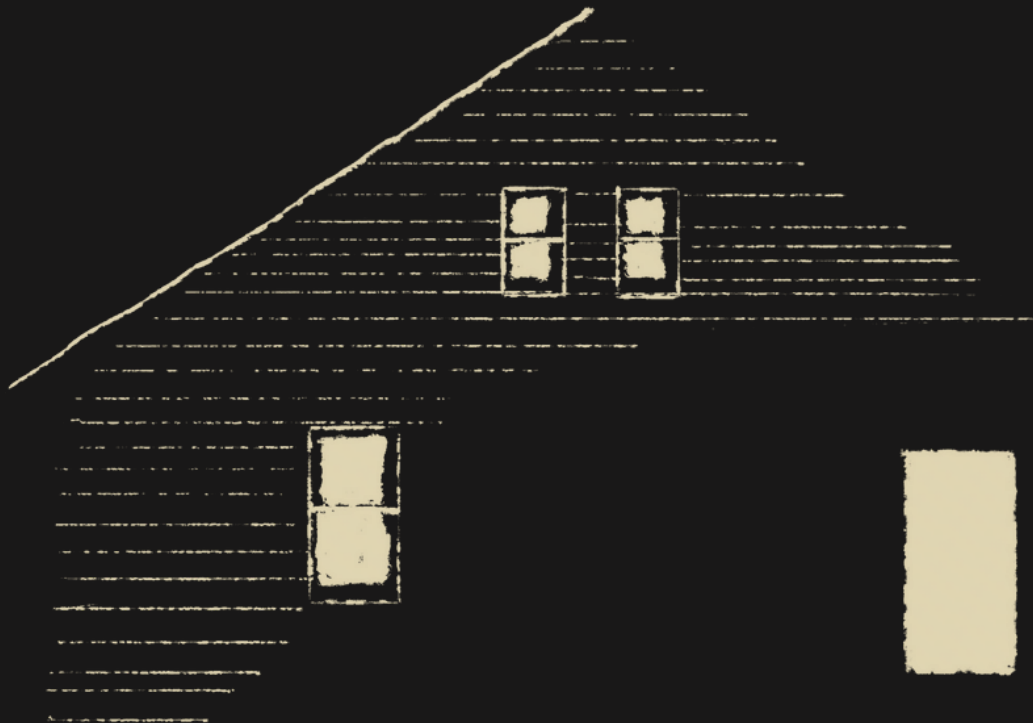


soft lights and silver shadows

a film by Ian Kelly



15 MINUTES - USA - 2023

CONTACT:

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SOFT LIGHTS AND SILVER SHADOWS

SYNOPSIS



LOGLINE:

A family reconstructs the fragments of memories forgotten by a loved one, in this kaleidoscopic animated documentary.

SYNOPSIS:

Filmmaker Ian Kelly grew up as his grandfather lost his memory. Now, a decade after his death, he and his family remember his grandfather and the memories he forgot. A poetic swirl of image, animation, and home video interweaves to explore what is left behind after a loss.

SOFT LIGHTS AND SILVER SHADOWS

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I was 7, my Grandpa, Al Zippay, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. For 10 years, he survived while his memory deteriorated — and I grew up witnessing and questioning what it means to lose so much of one's self. My family — my mom and her two sisters most of all — cared for him with a profound tenderness. Through frustrations and pain. They found humor and maintained a deep love.

My grandpa was the son of Czechoslovakian immigrants, who lived his whole life in the industrial community of Sharon, PA. He was a WWII veteran, serving in one of the first portable surgical hospitals — an experience that left him with a profound abhorrence for violence. He had a long career as the manager and voice of a local radio station. He was different from other men I knew at the time: curious, quiet and compassionate.

When he died, I didn't mourn him. Alzheimer's disease provokes a state of perpetual grief. Al, and our family, had endured daily losses — of memory, of self — the loss of life was only the latest. Now, a decade later, I find myself thinking of him. Of these many losses. And of what can still be recovered.

As a witness to the effects of memory loss I feel particularly attuned to the importance of preserving personal memories. As Sharon, PA, Al's home, continues its de-industrialization and population decline, more and more memories of the community are lost. This happens in communities and families across the country. Every act of personal storytelling and memory preservation is important and radical. It's an attempt to work against systems, biological or social, that try to erase our shared histories.

— Ian Kelly, Director/Animator

SOFT LIGHTS AND SILVER SHADOWS FILMMAKING TEAM

Ian Kelly, DIRECTOR/ANIMATOR:

Ian Kelly is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who uses animation as means to enliven stories of personal and historical memory. Ian's films have played at numerous film festivals across the country, including the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, and Cleveland International Film Festival. Ian has edited films about dinosaurs for the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, and films on Oprah for the National Museum of African American History and Culture. In his review for the NYT, Wesley Morris said of the latter that it featured "...one of the most charming pieces of editing you're going to see." Ian was the Assistant Editor on the short film, *The Neighbors' Window*, winner of the 2020 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short. Ian has an MFA in Documentary Media from Northwestern University.



Kate In, SOUND DESIGN / MIX:

Kate In is a music composer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist specializing in analog and digital music production and sound design for the screen. Drawing from her background in stop-motion animation and video arts, Kate uses music composition and production to create vivid, fantastical, and moody universes. She is a graduate of the MA in Sound Arts and Industries at Northwestern University.

Ian and Kate have previously collaborated on the 2022 film, **Memoria(I)**.



SOFT LIGHTS AND SILVER SHADOWS

CREDITS

Directed, Animated & Produced

Ian Kelly

Written and Narrated

Ian Kelly

With

Lori

Marla

Allison

Cinematography

Ella Harmon

Ye Xi

Ian Kelly

Sound Design

Ian Kelly

Kate In

Sound Mix

Kate In

Original Music

Kate In

"What About the Time"

Written By Kate In

Performed By Kate In

With Mitch McAndrew

Engineering by Tom Dixon & Kate In

Music

Intermezzo - TinyTiny Trio by Blue Dot Sessions

Etude 9 Stefan - The Viscount by Blue Dot Sessions

Dvorak Polka by Kevin MacLeod License (CC BY 4.0)

Special Thanks To

Marco Williams

J.P. Sniadecki

Christina Nyguen

&

Anna Bauman

Allison Zippay

Jim Kelly

Thanks To

Zaki Al Abdullah

Ella Harmon

Laura Gede

Jacob Kessler

Li Zemin

Maya Wanner

Rasheed Peters

Jiaxin Wei

Meghan Wells

Ye Xi

Naomi Zidon

Ines Sommer

Kyle Henry

Clayton Brown

Debra Tolchinsky

Rachael Moeller

Jack Quinn

Ryan McQuade

Shanti Mirdayanti

Simon Kilmurry

Verena Paravel

Apichatpong Weerasethakul

Lynne Sachs

Larry Gottheim

Matthew Hill

Granville Bowerbank

Sophie Harari

ColorLab

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