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Animator shows the world through the eyes of an OCD mindset

The world's first Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) Animation Festival will feature a poignant short film by London Metropolitan University lecturer Peter Hewitt.

The Animation Festival, on 29 July 2011, will screen as part of the International OCD Foundation's annual conference, being held in San Diego, California.

Up to 20 films produced by OCD sufferers will be showcased as part of the Festival. The aim is to allow the audience to see the world through the eyes of an OCD mindset.

Peter, a Senior Lecturer in Film and Broadcast Production at London Met, said his film 'Leaving by Numbers' is a reflection of his own experiences living with OCD.

"I have a mild form of OCD, which believe it or not has certain benefits (I rarely leave the gas on)", he said.

"When I began researching for the film I found some truly horrific stories about people who suffer seriously from it."

Peter said the collection of short films could go a long way in raising awareness about OCD.

"Obviously there are a lot of OCD sufferers who need and want treatment, but I think there might also be those who aren't especially debilitated by it, but feel a certain amount of shame", he said.

"Hopefully a festival such as this, where not only the subject matter is OCD, but many of the artists are sufferers who use their condition in a positive way, will raise awareness, both of possible treatment and of living with it."

Watch 'Leaving by Numbers' here: <http://vimeo.com/15438210>

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Notes to editors:

Peter Hewitt is an animator, filmmaker, musician and editor. He is Course Leader of Film and Broadcast Production at London Met's Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design (The Cass). Peter's latest film 'Lennie & the Flower Child' is currently in post-production. Peter described the film as "a kind of modern fairy tale about a recently bereaved husband who is prevented from suicide by the discovery of an envelope, left by his wife, which contains a strange seed and the instruction to grow it."

For more on The Cass, see: <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/faculties/the-cass.cfm>

More on the International Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Festival here:

<http://www.ocfoundation.org/>

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