



A moment from the film. PIC COURTESY/@ARTDECOMUMBAI

Filming an era of history

Liberty Cinema is an iconic stop for anyone who is exploring Mumbai. Art Deco Mumbai, a digital repository of the city's architectural heritage, is set to release a short film on the single-screen theatre on August 22 to commemorate its humanness. Founder Atul Kumar told this diarist, "The film is a chronicle of the people who made Liberty — late Nazir Hoosein [theatre owner, inset], his father, Habib Hoosein, and the staff who have spent their lives working there. Their stories and how they look at



this structure of splendour with honesty contributes to our oral history." He says their stories are a rarity because they've never been documented: "There's a part in the film where a staffer says everything in the architecture is circular; 'Jahaan bhi dekho sab gol gol hai'. I like how they don't need refinement to convey their astonishment."

He added that with new modes of entertainment, single-screen movie halls are struggling. "I thought, before it's too late, someone needs to film and document these stories."