



DONBASS

21st
Year!

Autumn
Season
2019

Release: 2018

Cert (UK): 15

Country: Ukraine

Language: In Russian and Ukrainian with English subtitles

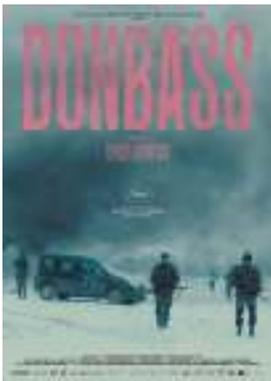
Runtime: 2 hour 2 mins

Director: Sergey Loznitsa

Writer: Sergey Loznitsa

Cinematographer: Oleg Mutu

Cast: Tamara Yatsenko, Irina Zayarmiuk, Grigory Masliuk



We had a double take when we saw the reviews of 'Donbass': a Ukrainian black comedy? Really? Looking closer, that reaction is probably what director Sergey Loznitsa (*'In the Fog'*) wants. His film is trying to show the sheer madness of the war in Ukraine, *'...a place where there are still memories of the second world war, tribal loyalties concerning the Russia that saved Ukraine from Nazi Germany and fascism – but also, on the other side, the Stalinist terror-famine visited on Ukraine before the war'* - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.

Loznitsa does this by a series of episodes *'...fuelled by ...collisions between the grave and the comic, a tonal oscillation mastered by Loznitsa in his documentaries and carried over here to support a vision of a society cracking under the weight of its own inconsistencies, corruption and mob mentalities'* - Carson Lund, Slant.

As David Parkinson says in the Radio Times, *'Watching this... it becomes dismayingly clear why the people of Ukraine voted in 2019 to entrust the country's presidency to a comedian known for playing a decent politician in a TV series. From its opening sequence showing how fake news is concocted to control the thought processes of a divided nation, this withering and soberingly acute satire has a ring of authenticity...'*

So we can expect to laugh here, but possibly the same way you might laugh at some of the strange things that Trump comes out with; fortunately *'The compunction to tell the truth remains, which is why Sergei Loznitsa's body of work is so indispensable: It refuses to be complacent'* - Jay Weisberg, Variety.

