



GLASSLAND

Autumn
Season
2015

Release: 2014

Cert (UK): 15

Language: English (Ireland)

Runtime: 93 mins

Director: Gerard Barrett

Writer: Gerard Barrett

Cinematographer: Piers McGrail

Cast: Will Poulter, Toni Collette, Jack Reynor



For a second feature this is the real deal, the best Irish film in years. Gerard Barrett's low-budget drama is marked out by raw performances and a strong empathy for its characters that help buoy up its downbeat subject matter.

Jack Reynor, who won the Special Jury Prize at Sundance for his role, plays John, a young Irishman who - despite being only in the early years of adulthood himself - is working graveyard hours in a taxi while attempting to be a parental figure to his alcoholic mum Jean (Toni Colette). Essentially, this is about a decent person, through no fault of their own, finding themselves in a position where the only way out seems to be crime. John has the weight of his family on his shoulders.

With a powerful emotional pull, drawing you in like a cinematic magnet, Director Gerard Barrett, who also wrote the script, delivers something lean to the point of sparse, deliberately leaving things to our imagination at times. It's a simple technique, but effective, both in capturing our attention and slowly but inexorably building a sense of tension and foreboding.

Glassland is a remarkable demonstration of talent from all involved.

