



THE COUNTY (HÉRADID)

22nd
Year!

Autumn
Season
2020

Release: 2019

Cert (UK): 15, Triple F-Rated

Country: Iceland

Language: In Icelandic with English subtitles

Runtime: 1 hour 32 mins

Director: Grímur Hákonarson

Writer: Grímur Hákonarson

Cinematographer: Mart Taniel

Cast: Arndís Hrönn Egilsdóttir, Sveinn Ólafur Gunnarsson, Þorsteinn Bachmann



We are off back to Iceland this week, from where we have had some great moments in the last few years – you will remember *'Rams'* and *'Woman at War'* I hope. *'The County'* comes from the same director as *'Rams'* – Grímur Hákonarson – but maybe has more of the feel of *'Woman at War'*.

Our hero this time is Inga, a dairy farmer fighting to survive in a farm drowning in debt to the local Co-op. When her husband dies, she

becomes aware that the Co-op, far from supporting the local farmers, acts more like the Mafia; yes, they guarantee buying all her milk but she has to buy everything from them at inflated prices.

Risking everything, she writes a whistle-blower review to the Co-op Facebook account. The support she hopes for from the local farmers disappears as they fear the Co-op too much: hence the feel of *'Woman at War'* – she is left to fight on alone. Inga tries to set up a rival co-op run by the farmers and even appears on national tv. As the Co-op throw their weight at her there are some classic comic moments as you would expect – Inga spraying their building with milk for instance.

Comparing this to Grímur Hákonarson's previous film, *'Rams'*, Amber Wilkinson says in *Eye for Film*, *'More of a low-key straight forward drama than his black comedy-inflected hit'*, although Alissa Simon, *Variety*, thinks *'The yin to that film's yang, 'The County' is full of feisty female energy and imagery, and sprinkled with rousing "you go girl!" comic moments'*.

