



VICTORIA

Autumn
Season
2016

Release: 2015

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 115 mins

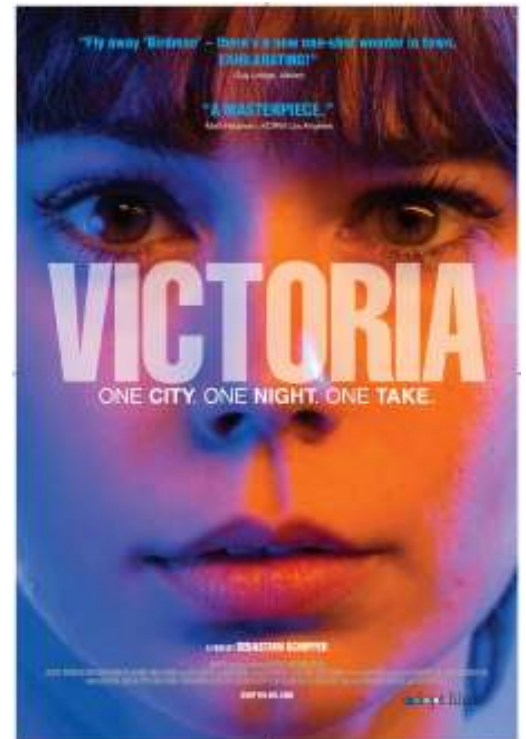
Director: Sebastian Schipper

Screenwriter: Largely improvised from a 12 page script

Cast: Laia Costa, Frederick Lau

'Sebastian Schipper's low-budget drama about a reckless young girl's excursion into the world of crime would be an ordinary enough affair were it not for the astonishing fact that he and cinematographer Sturla Brandth Grøvlen shot the whole 138 minutes in a single take, roaming the streets of Berlin to encompass 22 different locations en route. Bolstered by an atmospheric score by Nils Frahm and masterful performances by its young leads, who improvised most of the dialogue while carefully hitting their precisely orchestrated cues, the result is a lively and engrossing exercise in creative swagger.'

The performances help enormously. Laia Costa is convincing as the lonely outsider who takes a crazy punt on a total stranger and uses the danger of it to drown out her sense of failure and ennui. Frederick Lau is equally good as the slippery charmer whose easy lies come bubbling up from an anxious awareness of his lack of money, education and status. It's one of the film's more subtle strokes of genius to place a language barrier between Victoria and her new German friends; she is left out of crucial conversations which the audience, with the benefit of subtitles, understand, emphasising not only Victoria's alienation but her vulnerability. And it's these gaps and glitches in verbal understanding that make the film's visual seamlessness even more dangerously seductive'



Sight & Sound



'The film doesn't look cheap, hasty, scratchy or amateurish. It looks like peak Michael Mann.'

Perhaps the lasting coup is how quickly you stop handing out mere difficulty marks for technique, and adjust to this exhilaratingly fluid way of telling a story. Grøvlen's camera commits so completely to being in the moment that it's something you can't help but adopt as your own point of view – an accomplice or tagalong, bringing up the rear'

Daily Telegraph