



ATOMS & VOID

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MAIDAN МАЙДАН

a film by **SERGEI LOZNITSA**

MAIDAN chronicles civil uprising against the regime of president Yanukovych which took place in Kiev (Ukraine) in the winter of 2013/14. The film follows the progress of the revolution: from peaceful rallies, half a million strong, in the Maidan square, to the bloody street battles between the protestors and riot police. **MAIDAN** is a portrait of an awakening nation, rediscovering its identity.

Director Sergei Loznitsa rises above current political issues and looks at the nature of the popular uprising as a social, cultural and philosophical phenomenon. A powerful mix of enthusiasm, heroic struggle, terror, courage, aspiration, people's solidarity, folk culture, passion and self-sacrifice, **MAIDAN** is a stunning cinematic canvas combining classical film making style and documentary urgency.

Director's notes:

I went to Kiev in the middle of December. I knew it was urgent. I knew I had to be there and I had to film. I put off all my other projects and commitments and went to Maidan.

The euphoric atmosphere of the early days of Maidan felt so comforting and empowering that it felt like being in a maternal womb. Never before have I seen or experienced such solidarity, camaraderie and such an authentic spirit of freedom. It was amazing to see so many volunteers working together in such a harmony and with such zeal. Everybody seemed to be busy: guarding Maidan, helping out in the kitchens, providing medical assistance, performing on the stage of Maidan, coordinating volunteers. The night of December 19th, St Nicholas's feast, felt like a medieval folk carnival – a free spirit of the nation, awakening from a long sleep.

During the first weeks of Maidan, there was danger, but also there was a lot of humour and laughter. This very particular Ukrainian sense of humour, which helped

them get through some of the darkest moments of this nation's history. They were laughing at incompetent and corrupt politicians rather than hating them. The creative energy was bursting, and dozens of amateur singers and poets performed their rather naïve, but incredibly honest and passionate ballads on the stage of Maidan. There was also the abundance of food... Perhaps, it's been the most well fed revolution in history. Field kitchens were working round the clock and volunteers and ordinary citizens of Kiev were bringing tons of food supplies and home-made delicacies in order to feed everybody – they did not ask whether you were supporting the opposition or the regime...

By the middle of January the mood changed. It was not a carnival any more. It was a battle. Blood was shed. It was no longer a peaceful protest against corrupt president. It was a fight against an evil regime. It was a revolution...

Maidan is the first film in my rather long documentary career, when I actually had to follow the events of "real life", as they were unfolding. This was a new and nerve-wrecking experience for me. Usually, when I start on a documentary, I start by laying out a complete structure of the film in my head. I know exactly how the film will begin, how the narrative will develop and how it will end.

Making Maidan was a completely different experience. I was receiving new footage throughout January and February, and as tension was escalating and blood was shed, I was editing the film, not knowing what ending to expect. I divided the film into several parts: the prologue, the celebration, the battle and the post-scriptum.

My goal is to bring the spectator to Maidan and make him experience the 90 days of revolution, as they unfolded. I wanted to distance myself from the events and to leave the spectator vis-à-vis with the events, without any commentary or voice-over narrative. I used long takes in order to immerse the spectator into the narrative. I tried to record as much direct sound as possible, and I'm going to use a lot of it in the film.

"Maidan" is an enigma to me, which I am yet to solve.

*Sergei Loznitsa
March 2014*

Crew:

SERGEI LOZNITSA - director/script writer/ producer, was born on 5 September 1964 in Baranovici (USSR). He grew up in Kiev, and in 1987 graduated from the Kiev Polytechnic with a degree in Applied Mathematics.

In 1997 Sergei graduated from the Russian State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) in Moscow. Loznitsa has directed 20 internationally acclaimed documentary films and 4 feature films, all of which were premiered in the Official Selection of Cannes Film Festival. In 2013, Sergei Loznitsa launched a film production company ATOMS & VOID.

Selected filmography: BLOCKADE (2006), MY JOY (2010), IN THE FOG (2012), MAIDAN (2014), THE EVENT (2015), AUSTERLITZ (2016), A GENTLE CREATURE (2017), DONBASS (2018), THE TRIAL (2018)

Serhiy Stefan Stetsenko – director of photography (additional footage) was born in 1981 in the North-East of Ukraine. He studied cinematography at the Kiev University of Culture. Works as a DoP for film and television in Kiev. Serhiy met with Sergei Loznitsa during the first weeks of Maidan, and courageously and diligently followed the civil protests with his camera, witnessing the most dramatic moments of the revolution.

Vladimir Golovnitski – sound designer was born in Brest (Belorussia, former USSR) in 1956. Graduated from the Institute of Cinema Engineers in Leningrad (now known as the St Petersburg State University of Film and Television). From 1978 till 1992 Vladimir Golovnitski worked at the Belarusfilm Studios in Minsk. Since 1994 he is based in Vilnius, Lithuania, where he runs his independent sound design studio, Gutara. Golovnitski has been closely collaborating with Sergei Loznitsa since 2003, and he has designed the sound for 12 documentaries of Loznitsa, including “Blockade” (2005), “Revue” (2008), “Letter” (2013), “The Event” (2015), “The Trial” (2018), as well as Sergei Loznitsa’s 4 feature films, “My joy” (2010), “In the fog” (2012), “A Gentle Creature” (2017), “Donbass” (2018).

Production:

ATOMS & VOID (The Netherlands) - a film production and distribution company run by Sergei Loznitsa and Maria Choustova. Since its creation in 2013, the company has produced 3 short and 3 feature length documentary films by Sergei Loznitsa. ATOMS & VOID also participated as associate producer in the production of feature films by Sergei Loznitsa.

In 2013 ATOMS & VOID produced and released Sergei Loznitsa’s documentary short “LETTER” (European Film Academy 2013 nomination for Best Short Film) and managed the production of Loznitsa’s “REFLECTIONS”, as part of the “Bridges of Sarajevo”/ “Les Ponts de Sarajevo” omnibus (Official Selection Cannes Film Festival 2014). In 2014 the company produced and released Loznitsa’s feature-length documentary “MAIDAN”, the chronicles of the Ukrainian revolution (Official selection Cannes Film Festival 2014) and co-produced “THE OLD JEWISH CEMETERY” (international premiere IFFR 2015). In 2015, the company produced and released “THE EVENT” (Official Selection Venice Film Festival 2015). In 2017 and 2018, the company was involved as the associate producer in the production of Loznitsa’s “A GENTLE CREATURE” (Main competition Cannes Film Festival 2017) and “DONBASS” (Un Certain Regard competition, Award for Best Director, 2018). In 2018, the company produced and released Loznitsa’s montage documentary “THE TRIAL” (Official Selection Venice Film Festival 2018).

TECHNICAL SPECS: documentary, colour, 131 min, HD, 5.1

World sales:

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