

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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SERGEI LOZNITSA'S 'DONBASS' WILL OPEN THE EIGHTH EDITION OF FIRST LOOK, MoMI'S FESTIVAL OF FORMALLY INVENTIVE NEW CINEMA

Festival closes with U.S. premiere of Claire Simon's *Young Solitude*

First Look Festival runs January 11–20, 2019

Astoria, Queens, New York, December 4, 2018—Museum of the Moving Image will open the eighth edition of ***First Look***, its acclaimed festival of innovative new international cinema, with the **New York premiere of Sergei Loznitsa's *Donbass*** on Friday, January 11, 2019. Based on actual events, and comprised of loosely connected vignettes, *Donbass* is a surrealistic journey into the eastern region of Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists have clashed with Ukrainian nationalists since 2014. *Donbass* is Ukraine's official submission to the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. Loznitsa, who won the Un Certain Regard Award for Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival for this film, will appear in person at the screening and reception. The Opening Night film and Loznitsa's appearance are sponsored by the Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies at Columbia University.

First Look will close on Sunday, January 20, with the **U.S. premiere of Claire Simon's *Young Solitude***. The latest film from the celebrated French director (*Le Concours*), *Young Solitude* is a candid and uniquely collaborative group portrait of high school students at a suburban Parisian school. Simon will appear in person with the screening.

Between these two events, January 11 through 20, First Look Festival will feature more than 20 formally adventurous films from around the world, all New York festival premieres. The full lineup will be announced soon.

The Festival is free for Museum members at the Film Lover and Kids Premium levels. A Festival Pass, good for admission to all films (including opening and closing nights) will be available for \$40. Opening Night tickets are \$20, the rest are \$15, with discounts for seniors and students. Tickets will be available online at movingimage.us/firstlook

First Look is organized by Curator of Film Eric Hynes and guest curator David Schwartz.

The eighth edition of First Look Festival is presented with support from the Harriman

Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies at Columbia University; the Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism at the Missouri School of Journalism; and in collaboration with the French Cultural Services of the French Embassy, New York and UnionDocs (New York).

OPENING NIGHT FILM

Donbass with Sergei Loznitsa in person

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 7:00 P.M.

New York Premiere

Dir. Sergei Loznitsa. 2018. 121 mins. DCP. With Tamara Yatsenko, Liudmila Smorodina, Olesya Zhurakovskaya, Boris Kamorzin, Sergei Russkin, Petro Panchuk. In the Donbass region of Ukraine, a territory bordering Russia to the east, war has been festering and raging since 2014. Following the events of Euromaidan and the Ukrainian revolution, pro-Russian separatists have clashed with Ukrainian nationalists, which has involved a maelstrom of armed conflict, domestic terror, bureaucratic retribution, and propaganda. Based on actual events, and comprised of loosely connected vignettes, *Donbass* is a surrealistic journey into the dissolution of a society still staggering from a century of war, Soviet rule, and collapse. Along with the great cinematographer Oleg Mutu, world-renowned director Sergei Loznitsa (*My Joy, Maidan*) orchestrates an experience unlike any other, teasing absurdist humor alongside mortal horror, intertwining high style with journalistic attention to detail, and crafting a cinematic achievement for the ages that has the urgency of a news dispatch. Few works of scripted fiction have ever been this of-the-moment, and few films have ever been this singularly, extraordinarily, unshakable.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

Young Solitude (Premières solitudes) with Claire Simon in person

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 7:00 P.M.

U.S. Premiere

Dir. Claire Simon. 2018. 100 mins. In French with English subtitles. The latest film from acclaimed French filmmaker Claire Simon is a candid and uniquely collaborative group portrait of high school students at a suburban Parisian school. Simon facilitates a series of conversations between eleventh-grade students at a lycée in Ivry, south of Paris, covering topics that range from family histories to views of the world, first loves, and dreams of the future. Some of the teens are already close friends, others are getting to know each other in front of the camera, which fosters a fascinating tension between collegial self-awareness and spontaneous yet willing disclosure. What results is a film that is revealing of how teenagers talk to each other and think about the modern world, while also being a modest but subtly radical model for how all young people deserve to be seen and heard.

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wed–Thurs, 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Fri, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 10:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID; \$9 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum’s galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.