

BLOCKADE

directed and written by **Sergey Loznitsa**



BLOKADA

documentary

production

2005, Russia, St. Petersburg Documentary Film Studio

budget € 30 000
35 mm, b/w, 52 min.

producers

Vyacheslav Telnov

cinematographer

N. Blazhkov, A. Bogorov, J. Blumberg, A. Bistrov, V. Valdaizev, N. Golod, B. Dementiev, N. Dolgov, S. Ivanov, O. Ivanov, L. Isaksohn, A. Klimov, A. Ksenovontov, R. Karmen, L. Levitin, E. Leibovich, V. Maksimovich, S. Maslenikov, L. Medvedev, A. Nasarov, P. Pallei, F. Pechul, A. Pogoreliy, G. Simonov, B. Sinizin, V. Sinizin, J. Slavin, B. Sorokin, V. Stradin, K. Stankevich, V. Sumkin, G. Troffimov, E. Schapiro, B. Scher, G. Schuljatin, E. Uchitel, S. Fomin

synopsis

This is a documentary about the Leningrad blockade that took place in 1941–1944, during the Second World War. The film does not have words or music, only images, sounds of the dying city and intolerable suffering of the people... In just a few years, a colossal volume of work has been done. For the first time, all the video material shot in 1941–1944 about Leningrad was assembled, processed and restored, almost all the cameramen were named, the original sound of this period was restored and recorded.

tags

**chronicle, cruelty,
Leningrad blockade,
USSR**

awards

NIKA National academy prize for best documentary film, 2005

Arie & Bozena Zweig Innovation Award —

Chicago International Documentary Film Festival, 2007

Best Documentary Film from archive — Jerusalem International Film Festival, 2006

Gold Dragon — International Krakow Short Film Festival, 2006

Grand Prix — International Film Festival "Kontakt", Kiev, 2005

St. Petersburg's Government prix, 2005

The Lavr National Awards for Best Documentary, 2006

“ Told without voiceover, explanatory subtitles or any other contextualizing material, Russian docu “Blockade” looks unlikely to show up on the History Channel as it stands now. Nevertheless, this absorbing account of the 900-day siege of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) during WWII, told entirely through re-edited archive footage with freshly made sound, reps poignant viewing as it focuses on the daily lives of the city’s inhabitants. Pic by experienced helmer Sergei Loznitsa (“Landscape”) should soon besiege fests and upmarket cabbles. Culled from newsreel material, pic’s visuals are grouped thematically to show different aspects of the Leningrad Blockade. Shots of burning and later devastated buildings are backed by a soundtrack of sirens and raging flames. Sounds of soft weeping are matched to imagery of mass graves, which still have power to shock. Later on, dead, shrouded bodies are seen littering the streets, but most of the pedestrians, by this point so inured to the sight, simply walk past. Match between sound and image is concise but not too literal, and editing builds the pace well toward its climax, when the city is finally liberated and the war ends // **LESLIE FELPERIN, Variety**