

AUSTERLITZ

by Sergei Loznitsa



SYNOPSIS

There are places in Europe that have remained as painful memories of the past – factories where humans were turned into ash. These places are now memorial sites that are open to the public and receive thousands of tourists every year.

The film's title refers to the eponymous novel written by W.G. Sebald, dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust.

This film is an observation of the visitors to a memorial site that has been founded on the territory of a former concentration camp. Why do they go there? What are they looking for?

Germany 2017

94 min

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

English, German, Spanish

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Sergei Loznitsa · PRODUCER Sergei Loznitsa ·

SCREENPLAY Sergei Loznitsa · EDITOR Danielius Kokanauskis ·

DOP Sergei Loznitsa, Jesse Mazuch · SOUND DESIGN Vladimir Golovnitski

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I never thought that I would come here. Passing by I saw the sign and turned off. The passage leads alongside the road and turns to the side. The buildings are arranged in a semi-circle: houses where people live, normal people in normal houses. Cars are lined up in the parking area. It is a quiet and hot summer day. Nothing unusual.

Do these buildings belong to the territory? To the right, to the left, downwards, there is a fence and the entrance is built in perfect symmetry. People walk around behind the fence – tourists. All of them follow a strict logic. From one area filled with charcoal and framed with white stones to the next. A sign, a barrack number, next sign, next barrack number, infirmary, a barn.

People walk around alone or in groups. They look into windows and doors, stand at the information desks. People are interested in everything – each rock, every inscription.

This is the place where people were exterminated; this is the