

Overly Honest Reviews

Delving into the world of films, series, books, and music.

[ABOUT](#) [CONTACT](#) [Links to posted pull quotes](#)

Pin Posts

[Home](#) [Film Festival](#)
[Where the Camera Doesn't Look Away](#)



CANNES FILM FESTIVAL FILM FESTIVAL

Where the Camera Doesn't Look Away

Chris Jones — May 21, 2025

Share



Search

Recent Posts

Fog, Murder, and
Mystery: a Crime
Collection Drenched in
Style

A Nostalgic Sideshow
Cloaked in Controversy

Space to Breathe,
Room to Change

Six Lessons in Losing
Control

Desperation Finds a
Home in Grief

Recent Comments

**Read Time:** 5 Minute, 16 Second**MOVIE REVIEW****Militantropos (Мілітантропос)****NOT RATED** – ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆**Genre:** Documentary**Year Released:** 2025**Runtime:** 1h 50m**Director(s):** Yelizaveta Smith, Alina Gorlova & Simon Mozgovyi (Tabor Collective)**Where to Watch:** shown at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival

RAVING REVIEW: This isn't the kind of documentary that waits for your attention—it confronts you, without spectacle, with a reality that refuses to be simplified. Every sequence has an emotional honesty baked into it that refuses to play to expectations. Whether observing the resilience of those rebuilding in silence or the disorienting calm before the next strike, the work isn't asking for sympathy. It's asking for presence.

MILITANTROPOS resists the standard mechanics of documentary storytelling. You won't find a structured arc, a narrator explaining what you're supposed to feel, or a tidy emotional payoff. Instead, you're immersed in fragments of experience—often incomplete, always raw. Rather than following one subject or crafting a cohesive timeline, the filmmakers present a cross-section of individuals caught in an ongoing catastrophe. It's not about explaining the war; it's about showing what it does to the people who live through it.

This piece's staying power isn't its narrative—it's the method behind it. Created by the Ukrainian Tabor Collective, the film was made by those living the crisis, not outsiders reporting from a distance. That proximity changes everything. When your subjects are your neighbors and your backdrop is your home, the camera doesn't just record—it witnesses. That

Chris Jones on Old Friends, New Careers, and a Lot of Trouble

Chris Jones on Old Friends, New Careers, and a Lot of Trouble

Nunya Bizzness on Old Friends, New Careers, and a Lot of Trouble

Nunya Bizzness on Old Friends, New Careers, and a Lot of Trouble

Chris Jones on Friendship, Faking It, and Finding Yourself

Archives

May 2025

April 2025

March 2025

February 2025

January 2025

December 2024

November 2024

perspective shift is subtle but substantial, grounding each moment in a sincerity that can't be staged.

The production process itself was shaped by instinct and improvisation. There were no pre-arranged interviews; most encounters happened organically. The crew met their subjects on the ground—sometimes during evacuations, other times at military outposts, and occasionally during unplanned detours.

Editing mirrored the on-the-fly nature of the shoot. As some members filmed, others cut footage in real time, creating a fluid back-and-forth rhythm that blurred the line between gathering and shaping. The result feels almost poetic—scenes echo one another through thematic rhymes instead of linear beats. One moment bleeds into the next not through plot, but through tone and association, encouraging viewers to connect meaning emotionally rather than intellectually.

Nature, often an afterthought in war narratives, plays a pivotal role here. The sky—its moods, silence, and distance—is a recurring presence. Thunder rolls in over abandoned villages. Clouds stretch across fields still scarred from conflict. These aren't just transitions; they're visual reminders that the environment, like its people, is bearing the marks of war. The filmmakers return to certain landscapes repeatedly, treating them almost like characters—wounded, watching, enduring.

Sound plays just as significant a role. Real-world audio captured on-site becomes the heartbeat of the film. From the thud of artillery to the quiet rustle of trees, the contrast between the mechanical and the organic is used to powerful effect—a drone whirs by in one scene. Next, you hear a child's voice echoing through the air.

Crucially, the film never sacrifices ethics for impact. The collective made deliberate decisions to avoid exploitative imagery. People were filmed only with consent. When someone declined to be captured,

October 2024

September 2024

August 2024

July 2024

June 2024

May 2024

April 2024

March 2024

February 2024

January 2024

December 2023

November 2023

October 2023

September 2023

August 2023

July 2023

June 2023

May 2023

the camera turned away. There's an intentional respect throughout that never feels performative. It's not about highlighting suffering—it's about letting people decide how their stories are shared. And that extends to the piece's tone, which prioritizes vulnerability and agency over shock value.

This commitment to accountability continued off-screen. The filmmakers became active participants in the communities they filmed, helping rebuild homes, distributing supplies, and setting up ongoing volunteer efforts. That level of involvement isn't just noble; it adds another layer of responsibility to the storytelling. They weren't just gathering material but investing in the futures of the people they documented. That intimacy deepens the emotional weight of what unfolds on screen.

At the heart of the film lies a conceptual term from which its title is derived—a word meant to reflect the shift that occurs when ordinary life is overtaken by war. This isn't just about uniforms or weaponry. It's about how trauma reshapes identity, forcing people to evolve into versions of themselves built for survival. That evolution is never spelled out, but you see it—in a glance, a silence, a changed routine. Transformation isn't announced. It's implied.

MILITANTROPOS is a cinematic document built on proximity, process, and participation. It's as much about what's not said as what is, capturing the moments that usually slip through the cracks. It doesn't follow traditional structures because it doesn't need to. Instead, it offers a fragmented, real, and quietly devastating mirror. What you see in that mirror depends entirely on how closely you're willing to look.

Please visit <https://linktr.ee/overlyhonestr> for more reviews.

You can follow me on Letterboxd, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. My social media accounts can also be found on most platforms by searching for 'Overly Honest Reviews'.

April 2023

March 2023

February 2023

January 2023

December 2022

November 2022

October 2022

September 2022

August 2022

July 2022

June 2022

May 2022

April 2022

March 2022

February 2022

January 2022

December 2021

November 2021

I'm always happy to hear from my readers; please don't hesitate to say hello or send me any questions about movies.

[photo courtesy of SQUARE EYES, TABOR PRODUCTION, LES VALSEURS, MISCHIEF FILMS]

DISCLAIMER:

At Overly Honest Movie Reviews, we value honesty and transparency. Occasionally, we receive complimentary items for review, including DVDs, Blu-rays, CDs, Vinyl Records, Books, and more. We assure you that these arrangements do not influence our reviews, as we are committed to providing unbiased and sincere evaluations. We aim to help you make informed entertainment choices regardless of our relationship with distributors or producers.

Amazon Affiliate Links:

Additionally, this site contains Amazon affiliate links. If you purchase through these links, we may receive a commission. This affiliate arrangement does not affect our commitment to honest reviews and helps support our site. We appreciate your trust and support in navigating these links.

**About Post Author****Chris Jones**OverlyHonestMR@gmail.com[https://
mailnewsgroup.com/ohmr/](https://mailnewsgroup.com/ohmr/)

October 2021

September 2021

August 2021

July 2021

June 2021

May 2021

April 2021

March 2021

February 2021

January 2021

0**Categories**







Adult Reviews

Annecy International
Animation Film Festival

Berlin International Film
Festival

Cannes Film Festival

Cheating Wife POV

 **Happy** 0 %
 **Sad** 0 %
 **Excited** 0 %
 **Sleepy** 0 %
 **Angry** 0 %
 **Surprise** 0 %

 0  0

Average Rating

| | | |
|--------|----|-------------------|
| 5 Star | 0% | (Add your review) |
| 4 Star | 0% | |
| 3 Star | 0% | |
| 2 Star | 0% | |
| 1 Star | 0% | |

— LEAVE A REPLY

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment *

Rating*

☆☆☆☆☆

Name *

Email *

Website

CPH:DOX

Dances With Films

Digital

DVD/Blu-Ray/4K

EnjoyX

Fantasia International
Film Festival

Film Festival

Hot Docs

In Theaters

In Theaters/Digital

International

Interview

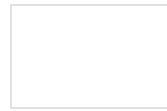
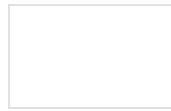
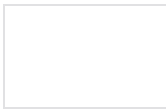
LA New Girl

Make Believe Seattle
Film Festival

Movie News

New Release
information

Overlook Film Festival



☐ Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

Post Comment

— MORE STORIES

Space to Breathe, Room to Change

Chris Jones —

May 22, 2025

A Cosmic Quest Told Without Saying a Word

Chris Jones —

May 21, 2025

Addiction, Denial, and the Cost of Caring

Chris Jones —

May 19, 2025

Love Grows Somewhere Between Chao...

Chris Jones —

May 18, 2025

Between Distance and

Pink Label

Pre-order

Redemption TV/
Salvation Films

Slamdance

Sundance

SXSW

Team Skeet

Toronto International
Film Festival

Tribeca

Uncategorized

Venice Film Festival

Intimacy, Truth Fades

Chris Jones —

May 17, 2025

Redefining Family, One Signature at a...

Chris Jones —

May 17, 2025

← **A Name That Meant Everything**

**A Cosmic Quest Told
Without Saying a Word** →

Copyright © 2025 Overly Honest Reviews. All rights reserved.
Theme: The Headlines By Themeinwp. Powered by WordPress.