



THE INNOCENTS

Autumn
Season
2016

Release: 2016

Cert (UK): 15

Country: France Poland

Language: French, English, Polish

Runtime: 115 mins

Director: Anne Fontaine

Cast: Lou de Laâge, Agata Buzek, Agata Kulesza, Vincent Macaigne



Warsaw, December 1945: the second World War is finally over and Mathilde is treating the last of the French survivors of the German camps. When a panicked Benedictine nun appears at the clinic one night begging Mathilde to follow her back to the convent, what she finds there is shocking: a holy sister about to give birth and several more in advanced stages of pregnancy. A non-believer, Mathilde enters the sisters' fiercely private world, dictated by the rituals of their order and the strict Rev. Mother (Agata Kulesza, Ida). Fearing the shame of exposure, the hostility of the new anti-Catholic Communist government, and facing an unprecedented crisis of faith, the nuns increasingly turn to Mathilde as their belief and traditions clash with harsh realities.

This is a slow moving but insightful film without a hint of prurience about it. Fontaine makes the most of the wintry landscapes – the snow-covered forests and frosty fields across which the nuns traipse. The dramatic tension comes partly from the danger in which the nuns find themselves.