



THE LAND OF THE ENLIGHTENED

Autumn
Season
2016

Release: 2016

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 87 mins

Director: Pieter-Jan De Pue

Screenwriter: Pieter-Jan De Pue, David Dusa

Cast: Gholam Nasir, Khyrgyz Baj, Noor



This is essentially a documentary following gangs of young boys who are making ends meet in Afghanistan by using leftover American arms, either to sell or to frighten others into giving them money and food; they become armed militias.

The director Pieter-Jan De Pue has added to this by writing scripts for some of the boys to allow a fictional underlying story. A narrator then allows him to describe the mythical origins of the country and its people, so that the result is an *'hybrid documentary that strives for a dreamlike reality to convey the fundamental divergence in worldviews between the nation's current occupiers and the ethnic groups that have inhabited the region for millennia.'*

'...De Pue, a Belgian photographer and filmmaker with extensive experience traveling throughout the country, shot the pic himself over seven years, using the expansive Super 16mm format to enhance scenes of Afghanistan's exhilarating topography and capture energetic sequences featuring his young subjects, who appear to be almost constantly in motion' – Justin Lowe, Hollywood reporter

