



THE PATROL

Spring
Season
2014

Release: 2013

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 85 mins

Director: Tom Petch

Screenwriter: Tom Petch

Cast: Owain Arthur, Nicholas Beveney, Daniel Fraser |

'For a first feature film British Director Tom Petch has certainly not held back. It was in 2006 that British troops were first deployed in Helmand Province, Afghanistan and The Patrol tells the story of how the scale of the Taliban insurgency dawns on the soldiers and how this then raises questions about their role.

Drawing on his own experiences of life in the army, Petch paints a convincing picture of life in such an inhospitable environment and how this can lead to loss of faith in the tools they have been provided with, in the judgments of their superiors and becoming generally disenchanted with risking life and limb in a war that is not their own.

The stark Moroccan desert so closely resemble the harsh Afghan terrain that it is almost indistinguishable from the reality faced by British troops. All-in-all The Patrol is one of the most believable, realistic and genuine war films to have ever been made. Like all great films it raises questions and then allows you to think of the answers. Petch does a superb job of raising questions about a war that has been going on for too long and has claimed too many lives.

Petch's formative background was as a tank officer in the Queen's Own Hussars and he has now moved into the world of film-making. It will be fascinating to watch how this career develops. For now, his debut is a certainly a statement of strong intent.

Tom Petch makes a powerful impression with this tough, smart war movie on a shrewdly managed small scale. Petch's dialogue and the resulting psychological picture are tense and plausible, and the modest digital effects needed for distant explosions actually enforce a disturbing, dreamlike atmosphere. This is an impressive debut from Petch' (Peter Bradshaw)

