
WHAT TO WATCH



▲ Dooley with Ukrainian recruit Pasha, at training in the UK

STACEY DOOLEY: READY FOR WAR?

BBC Three, 9pm & [iPlayer](#)

More than a year on from Russia's devastating invasion of Ukraine, Vladimir Putin is showing no sign of withdrawing his troops – meaning ordinary Ukrainians will continue to be turned into soldiers, forced to defend their homeland. In this moving new one-off documentary, Stacey Dooley brings more of the same familiar accessibility that has made her one of Britain's most popular interviewers as she follows a group of Ukrainian men who have enlisted in their country's armed forces, and now find themselves on British soil to receive five weeks of gruelling training from the British

Army. She meets Pasha, a welder who returned home to Ukraine from Belgium when the war broke out, intent on defending his nation; and Artem, a former jeweller who gets visibly emotional when talking about how much he misses his partner and six-year-old son, but how he must fight to protect their future.

Dooley is a strong presence, but has an undeniable knack for building rapport with people, fast, and that's on display here; it's an alternative, more personal insight to the lives of those changed forever by one man's relentless cruelty.
Poppie Platt