



Vietnam at 24 Frames a Second: A Critical and Thematic Analysis of over 400 Films About the Vietnam War

By *Jeremy M. Devine*

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Beginning in 1948 with Paramounts Saigon and Universals Rogues Regiment, Hollywood has produced over 400 features and made-for-television films about Vietnam and the ensuing conflict. With the exception of *The Green Berets* (1968), few were designed to rally Americans to the cause as earlier war movies had done. Many were not even combat films, instead dealing with such domestic issues as protests, veteran reintegration, MIAs and POWs. Arranged chronologically, this is a critical analysis of Vietnam War films from 1948 through 1993. Recurring themes are stressed along with the ways that movie America reflected the national reality, with essays blending plot synopses and critical commentary. The movies run the gamut of genres: dramas, action, adventure, horror, comedies and even one musical.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The significant Vietnam War film genre deserves better treatment than this. Overburdened with excessive plot synopses and undermined by a succession of rather pedestrian critical observations, the narrative dutifully marches through the oeuvre from French Indochina to 1993's *Heaven and Earth*. The best sections describe events behind the scenes, such as Francis Ford Coppola's struggle to produce *Apocalypse Now*, and biographical background on the screenwriters-whether they actually served in Vietnam, for instance. Appended are three handy filmographies, one of which arranges the films chronologically. The publisher has made important contributions to Vietnam War scholarship, including the excellent A-to-Z dictionary, *Vietnam War Films: Over Six Hundred Feature, Made-for-TV, Pilot & Short Movies 1939-72* (McFarland & Co., 1994). However, the present monograph is not among their best efforts. The definitive study is still *From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam War in American film* (LJ 2/15/91).

Richard W. Grefrath, Univ. of Nevada Lib., Reno

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Review

"[includes] three handy filmographies" -- *Library Journal*

"a thorough listing" -- *Choice*

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