D4180 DEAD PRESIDENTS (USA, 1995)

Credits: director, Allen and Albert Hughes; writer, Michael Henry Brown.
Cast: Larenz Tate, Keith David, Chris Tucker, N’Bushe Wright.
Summary: Crime melodrama set in New York City in the 1968-1974 time period. On the streets, they call cash ‘dead presidents.’ And that’s just what a black Vietnam veteran (Tate) is after when he returns home to the Bronx from the war, but he is drawn into a life of crime. With the aid of his fellow vets he plans the ultimate heist—a daring robbery of an armored car filled with unmarked U.S. currency. More broadly, the film addresses the issues of Black Americans’ involvement in the Vietnam War and their subsequent disillusionment with progress in social issues and civil rights in the United States during the 1960’s.

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Crouch, Stanley. “Film comment: Artistry in any color: The new films of Carl Franklin and the Hughes brothers tell American tales with elements that are both particular to the black community and universal. Are you listening, Spike?” Los Angeles times (Oct 22, 1985), Calendar, p. 3.
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Kovanis, Georgea. “Dead presidents: Down and out at war and at home” Detroit free press (Oct 4, 1995), p. 3C.
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Stack, Peter. “Bringing the war back home: Hughes brothers paint grim picture of black Vietnam vet in the ‘60s” San Francisco chronicle (Oct 1, 1995), Sunday datebook, p. 25.


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Weiskind, Ron. “Menace to himself; ‘Dead presidents’ follows a desperate kid into crime” Pittsburgh post-gazette (Oct 6, 1995), Sooner ed., p. 5.

