D8420  DUMBARTON BRIDGE  (USA, 1997)

Credits:  director/writer, Charles Koppelman.
Cast:  Tom Wright, Esperanza Catubig, Daphne Ashbrook.
Summary:  Melodrama set in contemporary California. Exploration of the themes of identity, ethnicity and belonging in a story of a black Vietnam veteran and the daughter he left behind after the war. John Shed (Wright) leads a withdrawn and solitary life in a small town south of San Francisco where he works on the salt ponds. He takes little pleasure in life and rarely ventures out with his white live-in girlfriend Belinda (Ashbrook). When Minh (Catubig), Shed's half-Vietnamese daughter arrives, he reacts with callous disregard for her welfare. Belinda invites Minh to live with them. Shed's bitterness and heavy drinking prompt Belinda to move out. Through a series of difficult steps, father and daughter come to terms with their own and each other's ethnicity and find ways to reassert their identity. Shed meets with a black support group and Minh finds her own sense of belonging with the help of a Vietnamese American social worker

Kilduff, Paul. “Richmond actor shapes his own roles; ‘Dumbarton Bridge’ infused with his emotional range” San Francisco chronicle (Nov 5, 1999), East Bay Friday, p. 2.
Zane, Maitland. “Filmmaker crosses ethnic divide with ‘Dumbarton Bridge’” San Francisco chronicle (Nov 28, 1997), Peninsula Friday, p. 5.