F5220  FIELD DAY (USA, 2004) [SHORT FILM]

Credits:  director, John O'Shaughnessy ; writer, Jeanne Marie Spicuzza.
Cast:  Jeanne Marie Spicuzza, Will Keir, Billy Bradley, Robert Dobrev, James Black.
Summary:  Short (19 min.) melodrama set in Los Angeles in November 2000.  Angela (Spicuzza), a graduate student of American history and peace studies at UCLA, is introduced to a new way of thinking by three young friends.  Searching for a new apartment for herself and her boyfriend, Kai (Black), Angela stumbles upon a renovated house beside a mysterious field.  She meets Chris (Keir), the building manager, and his buddies, Riley and Joey, who invite her to partake in ‘war games’ they conduct on the vacant land.  Chris explains that the field site has remained uninhabited since a troubled Vietnam veteran who lived there killed himself.  Angela soon finds herself in an all too real reenactment of a patrol in Vietnam.  In this ‘game’ a soldier shoots the lieutenant leading the patrol for refusing to attempt a rescue of two American prisoners of the Viet Cong.  Back at the apartment building while the group watches television coverage of Supreme Court intervention in George Bush’s disputed 2000 election as President, Angela considers the value of the understanding achieved by personal experience of history and how, when we wage war, we tear ourselves apart.


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