G7310  GREEN DRAGON  (USA, 2001)

Credits: director/writer, Timothy Linh Bui.
Cast: Patrick Swayze, Forest Whitaker, Don Duong
Summary: Melodrama set in 1975 California. In 1975, refugee camps were set in the desert at Camp Pendleton, Calif. to house an exodus of over 100,000 Vietnamese immigrants before and immediately after the fall of Saigon. When Tai (Don Duong) arrives, he is confronted by a camp filled with despair. Jim Lance (Swayze) is the humane Marine sergeant in charge of housing the refugees until sponsors can be found to help them assimilate into American life. Tai, who speaks English becomes a translator for the Marine. The two men are plagued by survivor’s guilt, the sergeant over sending his brother to Vietnam where he was killed, and Tai over having taken a seat on a plane that could have gone to someone more worthy. Several other refugees’ life stories unfold as they wait for sponsors.

Busch, Anita M. “Vietnamese actor under fire for U.S. film roles; Cinema; Officials in his country have condemned Don Duong’s war films and pulled his passport. Hollywood pledges help” Los Angeles times (Sep 30, 2002), Calendar, p. 1.
Thomas, Kevin. “Movie review; A look back at the time of beginnings; In ‘Green dragon,’ brothers Tony and Timothy Linh Bui tell a bittersweet tale of Vietnam refugees’ reception in America” Los Angeles times (May 1, 2002), Calendar, p. 2.

Additional notes: “Screening room; Balancing acts of heritage, identity; VC FilmFest movies explore the history of Asian immigrants and how their children define themselves” Los Angeles times (May 17, 2001), Calendar, p. 34.
White, Dave. “Green dragon” Soundtrack!: the collector’s quarterly 21 (summer 2002), p. 9.