P7665  THE PROMISED LAND  (USA, 9/15/1996-5/20/1999)  [TV SERIES]

Series summary:  A spin-off of Touched by an angel set in the contemporary U.S. When Russell Greene (Gerald McRaney) loses his job as a contractor, he decides to go on the road with his family. So he gathers his family including his wife Claire, his son Josh, his daughter Dinah, his mother Hattie, and his nephew Nathaniel and hits the road. With only an old Suburban, a trailer, and a dream, Russell and his family are now traveling across the country in search of adventure and helping many people along the way. Russell is an ex-Navy SEAL and Vietnam veteran and his brother Joe (Richard) is a Vietnam veteran troubled by PTSD and alcoholism.

Outrage (3/18/1997)

Credits: director, Michael Rhodes ; writer, Claire Whitaker.
Cast: Gerald McRaney, Wes Studi.
Summary: Set in Arizona (?) where the Greenes visit Jesse Rainbird (Studi) an Indian tribal official caught in the middle of a dispute between mining interests and tribal traditionalists. Russell recounts how he and Jesse originally met. Russell was a veteran just back from the Vietnam War, passing through town, when a bunch of teenagers decided to harass him. Provoked, Russell’s combat instincts caused him to nearly kill one of the youths. Something prevented him from going over the line and he fled town, hitching a ride from a stranger (Jesse). Jesse helped Russell through the rough period of adjustment to civilian life.

Purple heart  (1/29/1998)

Credits: director, Alan J. Levi ; writer, William Schwartz.
Cast: Gerald McRaney, Eddie Karr, Robert David Hall.
Summary: Nathaniel Greene (Karr) buys a discarded Purple Heart medal at a flea market and decides to try to return it to its rightful owner. His investigation leads to a bitter man who lost his legs in the Vietnam War and is estranged from his daughter. This leads Nathaniel to ponder his relationship with his own father who is a Vietnam veteran with a drinking problem in jail for killing two people in a traffic accident. Russell Greene (McRaney), Nathaniel’s uncle, is also a Vietnam vet and ex-Navy SEAL.

The road home (2)  (9/25/1997)

Credits: director, Tim Van Patten ; writers, E.F. Wallengren, Mimi Schmir.
Cast: Gerald McRaney, Richard Thomas.
Summary: Continuation of a story begun on the season opener of Touched by an angel (9/21/1997). Russell’s long lost brother Joe (Thomas) is another Vietnam veteran who came back from the war with mental and drinking problems. He kills two people while driving drunk, but is mistaken for a good Samaritan. Eventually his conscience leads him to face the truth a seek forgiveness and he is sentenced to jail time.
Everett, Todd. “Promised land” *Daily variety* (Sep 19, 1996), p. ?

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