T7830 TRUE BELIEVER (USA, 1989)

Credits: director, Joseph Ruben; writer, Wesley Strick.
Cast: James Woods, Robert Downey, Jr., Margaret Colin, Yuji Okumoto, Kurtwood Smith, Tom Bower.
Summary: Legal/mystery melodrama set in contemporary New York. Based on the real-life San Francisco defense attorney J. Tony Serra. Eddie Dodd (Woods), a once-acclaimed civil rights attorney of the 60's, now an embittered cynic who makes a living defending drug-dealing low-lifes, has his passion for justice rekindled by an idealistic young associate (Downey). Their case involves Shu Kai Kim (Okumoto), a Korean American inmate of Sing Sing who is accused murdering another prisoner, a member of the white supremacist gang called the Aryan Army. Dodd becomes more interested in the eight-year-old case that sent Kim to prison originally. It turns out that Kim was framed in the first case. One of the key witnesses is Cecil Skell (Bower), a Vietnam vet, now a patient in a mental hospital.

[Reprinted in Film review annual 1990]
Carr, Jay. “‘True believer’ a satisfying detective story” Boston globe (Feb 17, 1989), Living, p. 85.
Clark, Mike. “A split verdict on ‘True believer’” USA today (Feb 17, 1989), p. 6D.
Cosford, Bill. “Woods makes a strong case in Believer” Miami herald (Feb 17, 1989), p. 6D.
[Reprinted in Film review annual 1990]
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Howe, Desson. “‘True’ grit: Woods’ gift” Washington post (Feb 17, 1989), Weekend, p. 43.


Kehr, Dave. “Movie review: ‘True believer’ retains real sense of filmmaking” *Chicago tribune* (Feb 17, 1989), Friday, p. D.


Rebps. “‘True believer’: Lawyer faces his life” *Philadelphia inquirer* (Feb 17, 1989), Weekend, p. 5.


[Reprinted in Film review annual 1990]


[Reprinted in Film review annual 1990]


Taitz, Sonia. “‘True believer’ makes a case for idealism” *New York times* 138 (Feb 12, 1989), sec. 2, p. 23.

[Reprinted in Film review annual 1990]


“‘True believer’ based on real S.F. lawyer” *San Francisco chronicle* (Jul 9, 1989), Sunday datebook, p. 55.

Zheutlin, Amy (see under Drucker, Elizabeth)

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