L2460  LAND OF PLENTY  (USA/GERMANY, 2004)
(Other titles: Terre d’abondance)

Credits: director, Wim Wenders; writers, Michael Meredith, Wim Wenders; story, Scott Derrickson.
Cast: Michelle Williams, John Diehl, Shaun Toub, Wendell Pierce.
Summary: Melodrama set in contemporary Los Angeles and southern California. An examination of two people learning to live in post-9/11 America. Physically and mentally damaged by experiences in Vietnam, self-appointed homeland security agent Paul (Diehl) lives out of a van and spends his time combing the streets of Los Angeles looking for possible terrorist activity with his abundant spyware while listening to right-wing shock jocks. His Christian niece Lana (Williams) arrives from Palestinian territory, where she’s been partly raised, to work at a homeless mission and find Paul so she can deliver a last letter from her late mother, from whom Paul was long estranged. Lana finds Paul easily enough, but has trouble getting him to deal with her until she offers to help with his investigation into the drive-by killing of a Middle Eastern homeless man she knew from the shelter. Paul suspects he was part of a terrorist cell. The search for truth takes the odd couple on a road trip to Death Valley community of Trona, Calif. The climax of the film involves Lana and Paul settling down to compare notes about what they were doing that fateful autumn day three years before.

Covert, Colin. “‘Plenty’ fuels Wenders’ vision; German director’s new film excites the crowd at its Twin Cities premiere” Star tribune [Minneapolis, MN] (Apr 10, 2005), p. 7.
“Landscapes capture Wim Wenders as the German film director turns 60” China daily (Aug 20, 2005), p. ?
Scott, A. O. “A desire to heal the rifts in a troubled landscape” New York times (Oct 12, 2005), Sec. E, p. 5.
_________. “Gas, food and therapy on the American road” New York times (oct 23, 2005), Sec. 2, p. 13.
Thomas, Kevin. “Movies; Movie review; Getting left behind in ‘Land of plenty’; A skid row worker investigates a murder in Wim Wenders’ look at post-9/11 America” Los Angeles times (Nov 11, 2005), Calendar, p. E8
Vice, Jeff. “‘Land of plenty’ oddly appealing” Deseret morning news [Salt Lake City, UT] (Mar 17, 2006), p. W06.

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