T2420 TAKING WOODSTOCK (USA, 2009)

Credits: director, Ang Lee; writer, James Schamus; book, Elliot Tiber, Tom Monte.
Summary: Comedy/melodrama set in and around Bethel, N.Y. in 1969. Based on the real-life Elliot Tiber, the character of Elliott Teichberg (Martin) has returned to the Catskills from his career as a painter/designer in New York City to help his immigrant parents with their failing El Monaco motel. He has no idea what he is doing when he uses his influence to win approval for a local music and arts festival. The film attempts to provide a kaleidoscopic portrait of the generational movement on display at Woodstock while following Elliot’s personal issues (general uptightness, closeted homosexuality, and a feeling of responsibility for his parents). The parade of history (Moon landing, Vietnam and Middle East tensions) is glimpsed only in the background on television, but there is an embittered Vietnam veteran character named Billy (Hirsch) who is trying to figure out how to reconcile with all this peace and love stuff.

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