

G2840 THE GATHERING (USA, 12/4/1977) [TV]

Credits: director, Randal Kleiser ; writer, James Poe.

Cast: Edward Asner, Maureen Stapleton, Rebecca Balding, Sarah Cunningham, Bruce Davison.

Summary: Christmas melodrama set in the contemporary U.S. Adam Thornton (Asner) is a tough, ambitious and successful engineer. Two weeks before Christmas, he learns that he has no more than three months to live. He decides to devote his remaining time to his grown children and grandchildren. When his estranged wife Kate (Stapleton) discovers his secret, she suggests a Christmas reunion of the whole family. Eldest son Tom is a carbon copy of Adam. Daughter Peggy is a busy professional. Another daughter is a housewife and mother, while youngest son Bud (Harrison) is living in Canada under a false identity, a fugitive from the Selective Service. Adam and Kate work together to get the family together for Christmas. At first it appears none of the children will attend, but on Christmas Eve, they arrive one by one for a touching reunion.

Beerman, Frank (Fob). "The gathering" Variety 289 (Dec 7, 1977), p. 44.

Marill, Alvin H. Movies made for television : the telefeatures and the mini-series, 1964-1984 New York : Zoetrope, 1984. (Entry 804)

Worthy, Kim. "The gathering" Vietnam war feature filmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 164) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 229)