

**G4390 THE GIRL WHO SPELLED FREEDOM (USA, 2/23/1985)
[TV]**

Credits: director, Simon Wincer ; writer, Christopher Knopf.

Cast: Wayne Rogers, Mary Kay Place, Kieu Chinh, Kathleen Sisk.

Summary: Melodrama set in Tennessee from 1979-on. Story of a Cambodian refugee family of seven taken in by a Tennessee couple in 1979 and the adjustments each family must make to their new way of life. Based on the true story of Linn Yann (played by Chinn) and the Thrash family (played by Rogers, Place and Sisk) who are interviewed in person at the end of the movie. The Yanns were living in the squalor of a 'holding camp' in Thailand after they fled the Khmer Rouge, when they were given permission to emigrate to the U.S. Living with the Thrashes they must learn the basics of American culture. The child Linn succeeds in startling fashion, ultimately winning a spelling bee and a trip to Washington, D.C. where she meets Ronald Reagan.

Christopher, Renny. "The girl who spelled freedom" Vietnam war feature filmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 167-8) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 236)

Devine, Jeremy M. Vietnam at 24 frames a second [GB] (p. 242)

Kaufman, Dave (Daku). "The girl who spelled freedom" Variety 322 (Mar 26, 1986), p. 74.

Lanning, Michael Lee. Vietnam at the movies [GB] (p. 232-3)

Leonard, John. "Television: Ham and pineapples" New York 19 (Feb 24, 1986), p. 58-9.

Stempel, Tom. Storytellers to the nation: a history of American television writing New York : Continuum, 1992. (p. 191, 193)