

## J6350 JOHNNY GOT HIS GUN (USA, 1971)

(Other titles: Johnny cogio su fusil)

**Credits:** director/writer/novel, Dalton Trumbo.

**Cast:** Timothy Bottoms, Kathy Fields, Marsha Hunt.

**Summary:** Melodrama set in a military hospital. Joe Bonham (Bottoms), a World War I American infantryman, is hit by an artillery shell. He loses his arms, his legs, his face and part of his brain. His doctor believes that Joe has lost his capacity for conscious thought, and decides to keep him alive as an experiment. In fact, Joe has an intense inner life revealed through his memory flashbacks, but he can communicate none of this to the nurses or doctors. One nurse continues to treat him like a human being and he tries to communicate by nodding his head in Morse code. The doctors realize their mistake and ask him what he wants to do. He asks to be put on display like a freak or put to death. The chief doctor refuses to do either, leaving Joe in darkness and despair. Described by Michael Dembrow in Vietnam war films as having "a message and tone" of the Vietnam era. Joe is representative of all young men who have had their lives stolen from them by older men.

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