

K2750 KARMA (SWITZERLAND/VIETNAM, 1986)

(Other titles: Con thu tat Nguyen; Vietnamization)

Credits: director, Ho Quang Minh ; writers, Nguy Ngu, Ho Quang Minh ; novel, Nguy Ngu.

Cast: Tran Quang, Phuong Dung, Le Cung Bac.

Summary: War melodrama set in South Vietnam in the late 1960s. Story of the lives of two South Vietnamese officers, Binh and Tri (Tran and Le) and Binh's fiancée Nga (Phuong) from 1968-1972. Lt. Binh goes missing in action. His village is forcibly evacuated and his fiancée becomes a Saigon bargirl in order to survive. When Binh returns, he rejects what Nga has become, joins the Special Forces and dedicates himself to war. Tri attempts to reconcile the pair and Nga tries to recapture Binh's love. Binh, however, has been disfigured and dehumanized by war and rejects all help, running into an artillery barrage to avoid Nga. This Vietnamese film, produced 10 years after reunification, is an attempt at reconciliation for it presents South Vietnamese soldiers as decent honorable men dehumanized by war and a corrupt government.

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Maslin, Janet. "Film: Vietnamese side of the war in 'Karma'" New York times 136 (Jul 8, 1987), p. C22.

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