

From: Reviews and Criticism of Vietnam War Theatrical and Television Dramas
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P2440 THE PAINTING (USA, 2001)
(Other titles: Soldiers of change)

Credits: director, Peter Manoogian ; writer, Buddy Sheffield.

Cast: Charles Shaughnessy, Clifton Davis, Stacey Dash, Heath Freeman.

Summary: Coming-of-age melodrama set in the 1960s in Vietnam and Kansas City.

When his mother was killed in an automobile accident young Randy Barrington (Freeman) is largely raised by his father's black butler Thomas Ayers (Davis). Randy's father Randolph (Shaughnessy) is caring but aloof, more interested in his world class art collection. Randy becomes involved in the Civil Rights movement and falls in love with Hallie Gilmore (Dash), the niece of the butler. Randy's father (Shaughnessy) is against the relationship and insists Randy attend West Point as all his forbearers have. Randy has a confrontation with an upper classman at the Point and drops out. Randy and Hallie elope, but Randy is shortly drafted and sent to Vietnam. Hallie bears his daughter, but Randy does not get to meet the child before he is killed in action. He was trying to rescue a Vietnamese girl from injury when he was killed, and a black soldier, a friend of Randy with some artistic talent, commemorates him by painting a portrait of Randy and the girl. The painting, presented to the ailing Randolph, becomes his most prized work of art. At his death he arranges for Thomas, Hallie and her daughter to inherit his estate.

Hulse, Ed. "Soldiers of change" Video business (Jan 9, 2006), p. 13.

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