

From: Reviews and Criticism of Vietnam War Theatrical and Television Dramas
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V3740 THE VETERAN (USA, 2006)

Credits: director, Sidney J. Furie ; writers, J. Steven Maunder, John Flock.

Cast: Michael Ironside, Ally Sheedy, Bobby Hosea, Casper Van Dien.

Summary: Mystery/adventure set chiefly in contemporary Ho Chi Minh City. Ray Watson (Hosea), an African-American Marine Vietnam vet turned preacher and politician is forced to return to Vietnam for the first time in 30 years when he receives an anonymous letter that could jeopardize his ambitious political future. It seems someone knows he fathered an Amerasian son, and worse, participated in the massacre of civilians during the war. After visiting his former mistress and son and being rejected by them, Ray is confronted by an enraged ex-POW comrade (Ironside) named "Doc" (he was a Navy Corpsman) whom Ray had left behind after an ambush. Doc spent six years in confinement before being turned loose, well after the peace treaty, and never returned home. He confirms that there were other MIAs similarly held after the peace treaty. Doc forces Ray to relive the events of their ambush and capture, hoping for an explanation of Ray's behavior. Was it because he knew Doc to be gay?!! Meanwhile, across the street, U.S. government agents assigned to resolving MIA/POW sighting reports are secretly listening in on their conversation. It seems the past has more secrets to offer, and neither man is whom he appears to be. Nor are the government agents. The MIA/POW hunters are actually CIA and NSA agents (Sheedy), serving their own agendas which do not include revealing the existence of living ex-POWs in Vietnam. It would not be good for business, and the revelation of Reverend Ray's sins would end a political career which the Washington power brokers want to encourage. The "Doc" is a threat to all this and expendable.

Hulse, Ed. "The veteran" Video business 26/48 (Nov 27, 2006), p.11-12.

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