

From: Reviews and Criticism of Vietnam War Theatrical and Television Dramas
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W2438 THE WALL (USA, 5/24/1998) [CABLE TV]

Series summary: Anthology of three stories inspired or based on names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial or objects left there by visitors.

The badge

Credits: director, Joseph Sargent ; writer, Charles Fuller.

Cast: Savion Glover, Ruby Dee.

Summary: A toy silver badge has brought members of the Mitchell family safely home from battle since the Civil War. Now it is Bracey Mitchell's (Glover) turn to wear it. When he accepts it from his grandmother (Dee), he is consumed by feelings of patriotism. Later, that dedication will help him overcome his fears in combat.

The pencil holder

Credits: director, Joseph Sargent ; writer, Scott Abbott.

Cast: Edward James Olmos, Trevor Blumas.

Summary: Col. Holst (Olmos) is a humorless career soldier and widower. He has trouble relating to his young son Ben who tries in vain to impress Holst with a pencil holder he made at school. When Ben skips school and spends an afternoon with a dying soldier, both father and son learn some important things about themselves.

The player

Credits: director, Joseph Sargent ; writer, Pat Duncan.

Cast: Frank Whaley, Michael DeLorenzo.

Summary: Two soldiers from different backgrounds are thrown together in Vietnam. One, is the cynical Bishop (Whaley), the other is Luis (DeLorenzo). Bishop is content to run the officer's club and pick up a little extra money with a variety of scams. Luis, however, is focused on getting the men under him safely home from the war.

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Hill, Michael E. "'The Wall,' other holiday fare" Washington post (May 24, 1998), TV week, p. Y7

Hodges, Ann. "Something to remember; Objects left at the Wall inspire stories about soldiers" Houston chronicle (May 24, 1998), Television, p. 34.

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- Kelleher, Terry. "The Wall" People weekly 49/20 (May 25, 1998), p. 24.
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- Leonard, John. "The way we look tonight: ...The Wall" New York 31/20 (May 25, 1998), p. 82-3.
- Lyman, Rick. "TV weekend; From talismans, 3 Vietnam vignettes" New York times (May 22, 1998), sec. E, p. 29.
- McDonough, Kevin. "Vietnam's Wall, POWs top memorial weekend shows" Commercial appeal [Memphis, TN] (May 23, 1998), p. E6.
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- Reynolds, Rick. "Three videos recall the Vietnam quagmire" Telegram & gazette [Worcester, MA] (Jan. 31, 1999), p. 4.
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- Weintraub, Joanne. "War cries; New cable movies zero in on Vietnam, Desert Storm" Milwaukee journal sentinel (May 24, 1998), p. 2.