

W2665 THE WAR (USA, 1994)
(Other titles: Baum-Haus)

Credits: director, Jon Avnet ; writer, Kathy McWorter.

Cast: Elijah Wood, Kevin Costner, Mare Willingham, Lexi Randall, Raynor Scheine.

Summary: Melodrama set in Mississippi in 1970. Vietnam vet Stephen (Costner) is released from a VA hospital where he had been under treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. Returning to his small Mississippi town and loving wife (Willingham), he tries to make something of himself while sharing his new nonviolent credo with his volatile son Stuart (Wood) and trying to forgive himself for what he considers an act of cowardice - allowing a friend to die in combat. Stuart and his friends share their tree house with his sister and her two black girl friends. A feud develops with the poor white Lipnicki family who own the local junkyard. When Stephen dies of injuries received when saving a fellow worker in a mine cave-in, Stuart is left to defend the tree house against the Lipnickis, using some of his father's leftover equipment from Vietnam. When the youngest Lipnicki almost loses his life in the struggle for the tree house, Stuart comes to understand his father's appreciation for nonviolence.

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