

W2702 THE WAR AT HOME (USA, 1996)

Credits: director, Emilio Estevez ; writer/play (Homefront), James Duff.

Cast: Kathy Bates, Martin Sheen, Kimberly Williams, Emilio Estevez.

Summary: Melodrama set in Texas in 1972. Depicts a returning Vietnam War hero, whose haunting experiences leave him unable to adjust to the quiet reality of small town life in Texas. A voiceover opening by teenage sister Karen (Williams) conveys a sense of the innocence and misguided patriotism under which the U.S. became involved in Vietnam. Her brother, Jeremy Collier (Estevez), has been home from Vietnam for a year but is traumatized by his experiences. His domineering mother (Bates) pretends nothing is wrong. His easygoing father (Sheen) can't seem to connect with him on any level. Sister Karen occasionally tries broach the subject of Jeremy's adjustment problems while going through her own teen-rebel angst. Catalyst for the drama is the approaching Thanksgiving weekend, when Jeremy's aunt and uncle are to visit, and Mom is determined to maintain appearances at all costs. When the truth about what Jeremy went through in Vietnam emerges, it turns out the true enemy was always within the family.

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