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Film review about *Full Metal Jacket*



The young soldiers are trained in the USA in a military base called « Paris Island » to fight in Vietnam, then, they go in Vietnam to fight. They are afraid, but those are soldiers. The film is *Full Metal Jacket* (1987). The film director is Stanley Kubrick and the main actors are Matthew Modine, Adam Baldwin, Vincent d'Onofrio, R. Lee Ermey, Arliss Howard, Dorian Harewood and Kevyn Major Howard. The genre is war and drama and theme is Vietnam War. Why can we say that this movie is a classic?

The Vietnam War was the longest war in USA history. It started in 1955 and ended in 1975. In a military base, in America, the young soldiers trained for war. Some soldiers go to Vietnam to fight against communism. It was a conflict between North and South Vietnam. The American soldiers supported de South Vietnam, they were not communist. So they fought against communists. There are lots of characters because there are many soldiers in this military base. The sergeant Hartman gives a nickname to some soldiers. For example, the soldier who is big is called Lawrence but the sergeant Hartman nicknames him Pyle. He gives also nicknames to other soldiers as Joker because he is funny, Snowball to make fun of him because is a swarthy soldier, Cowboy... Pyle kills Hartman. The action begins when the soldiers go to Vietnam to fight.



The screenplay is perfect the scenes are consistent and structured but the script is repetitive because the soldiers say all the time “Sir, yes, sir” or “Sir, no, sir”. The story begins with the soldiers and the sergeant Hartman. Hartman insults the characters. He explains life in the army. The sergeant plays its role very well. The action begins and the soldiers go to Vietnam. We can see life of the fighters during the war. The outcome is good, it seems likely.



The characters play their roles very well, they are credible and consistent in their dialogues and in their actions. The sergeant shows that he is strict. For example he says: “I am hard, you will not like me” and “I am hard but I am fair”. He says his script naturally, the other characters say their script naturally too. They show that they are sad because it is war. There are suicides as Pyle who kills himself after killing Hartman. When Hartman speaks the spectator is afraid for the soldiers, because he is impressive. The dialogues are realistic but when Hartman gives nicknames it is caricatured.

The aesthetics is good. In fact, the clothes are excellent and represent well the different roles. We are in the atmosphere of the film. We are scared for them. Otherwise, the blood is not done well, we can see that it is not real blood. Moreover, the film soundtracks are not consistent with the scene. For example, there is a scene where there are bombs, arms... and film soundtrack is joyful. The sound effect is rich but I find that for a war movie there are many scenes with cheerful soundtracks.



This movie is very interesting, I advise people to go see this movie. It's a good time when we can see this film. I do not like war movies but it's very well done. This movie is a classic with typical special effects but it is very good. It's a great piece of filmmaking. A must see!



Stanley Kubrick

(Joker)



Matthew Modine



Arliss Howard
(Cowboy)



Vincent d'Onofrio
(Pyle)