

Still the Drums Will Blow Your Mind

REVIEW BY TONI BULL BUA

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Bobby Figaro, Richard Fulvio and Talbot Perry Simons are the old vets in *Still the Drums*. Photo by Roy Kurtluyan.

Get ready for a very different kind of war story that looks deep into the lives of four marine buddies long after their war has been over. Missing in action in Vietnam since 1968, the remains of Lt. Jack Buchannon are found and identified. He is brought home a fallen hero, and awarded the medal of honor and buried with full military honors. His three best friends since childhood, also ex-marine combat vets gather at their old hangout after the funeral- to laugh and cry and tip a few Jack Daniels in honor of their beloved pal, Jack. As 39 year old memories crash back into life the comradeship of these old best friends are put to the ultimate test. That's as far as I want to go story wise, because the surprise twists and turns of *STILL THE DRUMS* will blow your mind- and your heart to Kingdom Come.

I will say that the writing and directing by Talbot Perry Simons, cinematography by Roy Kurtluyan, and wonderful original score by Miloangelo Adamo are top notch.

The acting is real and dynamic. As Al, Richard Fulvio's explosive inner turbulence shook me to the core. Talbot Perry Simons as the central character Tom is emotionally risky and seethes with memories buried way too long. Bobby Figaro as Mike is as laden with sadness and ignorance as war itself. The jungle war scenes are breathtakingly real, with Aaron Houle as handsome 20 year old Jack, and Wesley Edberg and Jason Shepard as the young combaters Al and Tom. Brett Lee Alexander, Keegan Michael, Jacob Ochsner and Adam Kolkin do a wonderful job in the 1958 Flashback, when the four young and innocent best friends pledge "All For One and One For All no matter what!" Kudos' to Pat Randall for fine casting! The new remake of Blind Willie Johnson's "Nobody's Fault but Mine", along with Richie Havens song "Follow" beautifully supported the storytelling and ushered me right back into each era. *STILL THE DRUMS* was years in the making, but if this is what we can expect from film makers Talbot Perry Simons and Richard Fulvio, we'll have a rich future of creative brilliance to look forward to.

...Toni Bull Bua

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