



L'odeur de la papaye verte

Contrary to Americans who are inspired by the history of Vietnam to insist on their "war" and its consequences on their own history, the French movie production, in spite of its limited resources has reserved for a past few years some interesting films about Vietnam. Notably one finds "Green Papaya" and "Cyclo" of the young Vietnamese director **Trần Anh Hùng**, "The Lover" of **J. Jacques Arnaud** or the famous "Indochine" of **Regis Warnier** with Catherine Deneuve. In spite of that, Vietnam remains one of the countries whose contemporary history is marked by war. For this reason, one also finds in French filmography the films of war of Schoendoerffer such as "The 317th Section" (1946), "Điện Biên Phủ" (1992) etc...

But war can only be served as a background. That is the case of Raoul Coutard's movie "Hoà Bình" (1970) and of Lâm Lê's "Poussière d'Empire" (1983). These two movies talk about Vietnam in a moving and original way especially the latter. This film tells us how the war has separated a loving couple.

It began with a quotation inspired by a legend: "When the rocks stare at the horizon for a long time, some of them become Waiting Rocks. Who is able to know if they come from the Sky or are born from the Earth? ". It is at the foot of a rock that a man soldier, then prisoner had to find his lover, a maid at a French family. For an appointment and to tell her he still alive, he wrote her a message. But this message was lost, changing hands to hands, resists all sorts of incidents of history. Only thirty years later, in Paris, this maid will read the message crying for this missed appointment. It is her own daughter who will become the Waiting Rock like in pilgrim, a return to the source. "Poussière d'Empire" is a very poetic film.

It should not be confused with "Poussière de la vie", a movie produced by **Rachid Bouchareb** in 1994 adapted from **Duyên Anh's** novel "La Colline des Fantômes" ( The Hill of Ghosts ). It is the history of Amerasians who paid the price of adults' follies: war, racism, intolerance. It is a movie worth watching and should not be missed by those who like to know about Vietnam. Other films deserve to be mentioned: the rebel (Dòng máu anh Hùng) of Charlie Nguyễn or silk tunic Hà Đông (Ao lụa Hà Đông) of Lư Huỳnh. The latter won the prize of "Film selected by the audience" at the International Film Festival Pusan (Republic of Korea) from 12 to 20 October 2006.



The rebel

## Điện Ảnh Việt-Nam



Áo lụa Hà Đông