

Full metal Jacket

A great mixture of enjoyment, war and psychology.

Full metal Jacket is a Stanley Kubrick's film of 1987, based on Hasford's 1979 novel *The Short-Timers*. That film is divided in two part. The first one is hilarious. It narrates the training of new recruits in 1967, Parris Island's base, USA. The group of new US Marine Corps was under the direction of Hartman (R. Lee Ermey). His performance, as a caricature of a tyrannic Senior Drill Instructor, was absolutely brilliant. During 1 year the group will learn how to play war, singing Marines chant like "One, two, three, four, I love the Marine Cops. This is my rifle, this is my gun. This is for killing. This is for fun". During that part of pure comedy, we will see the evolution of "Joker" (Matthew Modine), "Cowboy" (Arliss Howard), "Rafter Man" (Kevyn Major Howard), "Gomer Pyle" (Vincent D'Onofrio), and the other recruit. They stoped to be childs to become "real men". That process, due tot the sarcasm of their gunnery Sergeant was really hard especially for Gomer Pyle.

One year after, just after being graduated, an unfortunate incident occurred in the compagne. With that event stanley Kubrick marked the end of the fun inside the film. Following it, spectators and Marines were propelled in the Vietnam War.

The second part is serious. There is no more fun. We continue to follow Joker and Rafter Man, as war journalists. At their arrival in Phy Bay, it's war, but nothing seems to occurred. However after the Battle of Hue, the story go from one attack to another.

That port show human's psychology, especially at war. For example, Jocker have a peace symbol on his uniform, and "born to kill" painted on his helmet. It show the duality of human's mind. Sergeant "Animal Mother" (Adam Baldwin) is a crazy and nihilistic M60 machine gunner, but he tried to rescue caporal "Eightball" (Dorian Harewood), even if the caporal was already "wasted" (dead in their military jargon). Each character have it own personality. It allowed Stanley Kubrick to show human's mind complexity.

To sum up, Full Metal Jacket was an excellent film. The two part had nothing in common but both were brilliant. The press was enthusiastic. Metacritic gave it a score of 78 out of 100 and Rotten tomatoes 94. It won two prices at Boston Society of Film Critic Awards, one at London Critics Circle Film Awards, and one at Kinema Junpo Awards. For sources, see Wikipedia's article. The work of Ermey (Sergeant instructor Harman) was noticed by critics for his performance.

I have one thing to say, if it is not already done, watch it !

Robin Moussu.