

Vietnam: An Inner View - The Soundtrack

by Seth Kibel, WAMA, 2/22/18

While “*Vietnam: An Inner View*” is a compelling and evocative documentary, *the accompanying soundtrack is no less a remarkable and insightful artistic statement, as well as a window into history.* The songs on the album are not of the Vietnam era. On the contrary, they are newer (1992) compositions, written by the filmmakers, Marc C. Waskiewicz and Lea Jones, themselves. Yet both lyrically and musically, these songs fit seamlessly with the subject matter at hand.

The lyrics to all of these songs deal with the full gamut of experiences of Vietnam veterans. Musically, the producers have made the bold choice to match their lyrics to musical genres that would not have seemed out of place on a cassette tape in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. As such, we get songs like “Truckin’ It,” which evokes the



experience of an American soldier arriving in Vietnam, set to the sound of an electric Chicago boogie-shuffle. “Di Di Mau” is matched to electric surf-rock. “When I Had You,” which deals with the struggles of maintaining a relationship half a world away, is set to the sound of late 60’s soul, ala Sam Cooke. The Americana feel of “Loaded Gun” is a perfect match for a song that deals with the emotional struggles of adjusting to civilian life after the war.

Marc Waszkiewicz at the helm, 1992

Despite the range of musical genres explored, these songs are (almost) all united by the resonant sound of Lea Jones’ mellifluous baritone voice. They are all impeccably produced, and the soundtrack is made all the more compelling with interspersed clips of dialogue from the actual documentary. *This soundtrack is clearly not an afterthought, but an equal partner with the film in telling these important stories.*



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