

Document Citation

Title Anxious to return

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Source China Film Corporation

Date

Type distributor materials

Language English

Pagination

No. of Pages 4

Subjects

Film Subjects Gui xin shi jian (Anxious to return), Li Jun,, 1979







川月 / 八 / 丛 新

TO THE AUDIENCE

By Li Jun (director)

The film ANXIOUS TO RETURN has just been completed. I hope foreign audiences will have the opportunity to see it.

My idea as director was not to make the film melodramatic or throw in some Chinese kongfu just for the effect. What I tried to do was reflect something from real life by laying bare the common soldier's inner world in much the same way a Chinese painter uses muted colors in his work. This is what I tried to do in my previous films A DETACHMENT OF THE HUI PEOPLE, SERFS and SPARKLING RED STAR.

The main character, Wei Desheng, is a company commander who is wounded in battle and loses contact with his unit. As he tries to find his way back, he faces three great temptations: money, the preservation of his life at all costs, and love. For a dedicated soldier like Wei Desheng, the first two mean very little. But the third one - love - is a matter not so easily dismissed. As the saying goes, "Even a hero cannot withstand the charms of a beautiful lady." Wei Desheng is not the kind of hero lauded by the Gang of Four, a man isolated from love. Nor is he without tender feelings. On the contrary, as his wounds heal in the woman Yuzhen's house, he falls deeply in love with her. For the first time in his life, he feels the warmth and happiness that love brings. But at the same time, his love also causes him to suffer in a new way. Sometimes he just wants to leave and forget everything. Yet he is unable to free himself from this love. He really loves Yuzhen, but he feels guilty for having let himself fall in love. He is in a real dilemma. Desheng spends sleepless nights, smoking and thinking. In the end, they become engaged and he returns to his unit.













