

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Year of the Pig MUST be seen - and that's that</b>
Author(s)	Alta Maloney
Source	<i>Boston Herald Traveler</i>
Date	1969 Feb 27
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	In the Year of the Pig, De Antonio, Emile, 1968

# 'Year of the Pig' **MUST** Be Seen—and That's That

By ALTA MALONEY

Certain material is termed "required reading" for the American public. Yet with the growing importance of film, and the threatened disappearance of the written word, no film has seemed so far to merit the "must see" tag.

But such a film is Emile de Antonio's "In the Year of the Pig," a documentary about Vietnam which is having its world premiere at Symphony Cinema II.

**THE FILM** by the Harvard graduate and World War II veteran goes back to Col. Robert Gould Shaw and his Negro regiment, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, in 1865, in this country's Civil War.

And it comes up to yesterday, with an American boy writhing in pain beside a road in Vietnam, his fist beating the earth in his effort not to cry or scream.

De Antonio is not intent, however, on showing the gore of the struggle in Vietnam. His main purpose is to show by progressive statements, from 1941 to the present, the absurdity of the war.

**THE FACT IS THERE**, in black and white, but despite the ridiculous contradictions, both of policy and of what is presumed to be the American image, nobody is going to laugh.

Though strict attention must be paid to what is said by John Foster Dulles, to Ho Chi Minh, to his former negotiator with the French, Paul Mus, now at Yale, and to Dean Rusk, these are not the memorable scenes.

What stays in the mind are the repeated kicks in the groin administered by smiling U.S. troops interrogating a Vietnamese under the terms of the Geneva Treaty. And a Buddhist monk, the first, calmly burning brightly to his death, immobile, dedicated to freedom for his country.

**AND AN OLD WOMAN**, crawling away from her burning village, trying to roll before her, in her hysteria, a basket of belongings. And an appalling scene with Col. George S. Patton, 3d, telling of a chapel service for four U.S. dead and ending with a bright smile and, "they're a bloody good bunch of killers."

To give the full impact of the film, the skillful editing by the director who made "Point of Order" from the McCarthy hearings, would require using the whole script.

De Antonio even has some comments by former U.S. Sen. Thurston B. Morton of Kentucky, a news beat, that "the thing that I think we fail to recognize is that Ho Chi Minh, communist or what-not, is considered by the people of Vietnam, and I'm speaking of the millions in South Vietnam, as the George Washington of his country."

But even these telling comments are only a hint of the whole. "In the Year of the Pig" cannot be described—it should be seen. That's actually all that should be said about it.