

Document Citation

Title Revivals in focus -- excerpt

Author(s) Tom Allen

Andrew Sarris

Tom Allen

Andrew Sarris

Source Village Voice

Date 1988

Type review

Language English

English

Pagination

No. of Pages 1

Subjects

Film Subjects The steel helmet, Fuller, Samuel, 1950

Samuel Fuller's THE ISTEEL HELMET (1951), based on his story and screenplay, with Gene Evans, Robert Hutton, Steve Brodie, James Edwards, and Richard Loo, looks like one of Roger Corman's Z productions, but His, nonetheless. Fuller's Ifirst breakout movie for ageneral audiences. By an-Tchoring a Korean War tale to the no-nonsense survival philosophy of Evans's Sergeant Zack, Fuller brought the same kind of new, trench-level perspec-Itive to war movies that James Jones was bringing Lto the war novel. Evans, henceforth a Fuller regular, is remarkably convincling both amid exotic sym-Tools of fate and the kind of day-to-day survival tactics that only a filmmaker who had experienced war firsthand would think of including in a screenplay. This very strange combat movie begins with a fresh and forceful rescue mission, stages an cerie stalking of snipers in a fogbound orchard, and climaxes with a showdown in miniature. Fuller's very graphic if half-baked orientalism adds a mystical

touch to the Korean killing fields. The entire production resonates with an ambitious sobriety not often associated with Fuller's lurid reputation. (Cofeature: Douglas Sirk's Shockproof, with a script by Fuller) Thalia Soho: 3:30, 6:30, 9:30