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'Red Line'

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Elias Koteas, who plays Captain James Staros, the commander of the unit, exhibits an exceptional amount of emotion in his struggle with his duty to his job and his men.

Along with the inter-personal struggles facing each character are the more abstract, symbolic struggles. The film juxtaposes the beautiful tranquility of the Pacific islands versus the harrowing war. The cinematography of "The Thin Red Line," which was filmed in Australia and the island of Guadalcanal, finely depicts this contrast. One moment shows a panoramic view of the sprawling green hills and brilliant vegetation; the next flips to a scene of battled terrain and bloodied soldiers.

Although the film is expertly cast and skillfully filmed, there are certain moments within the plot that make it confusing. Some plot lines seem under-developed, leaving the viewer to question the relevance of a scene. And at times it is difficult to discern flashbacks from current events.

Also, individual characters are not stressed immediately. Instead, we learn about a select few throughout the progression of the film. This technique contributes to the feeling of being one among many, but it makes it difficult to remember each man's place within the story and his personal battles.

The net effect, however, is an emotional delve into the mind of a soldier fighting for his country, his comrades and himself. It is a valid attempt to make a now-removed war relevant once again, and shows that war is much more than fighting.



The cinematography of 'The Thin Red Line' is a careful blend of natural beauty and the harshness of war. The film was shot on location in Australia. The movie's action is to have taken place at the WWII battle of Guadalcanal, which was one of the Pacific's bloodiest conflicts.

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