



Cinema International

Country : Vietnam

Ben trong vo ken vang

Inside The Cocoon Shell

2023 / Colour / 182 minutes / Vietnamese



Director : Pham Thien An

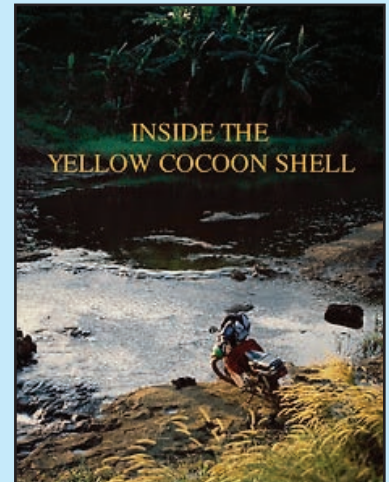
Producer : Tran Van Thi

Cinematographer : Dinh Duy Hung

Editor : Thien An Pham

Cast : Dylan Besseau

Synopsis : Thien's sister-in-law Teresa dies in a motorcycle accident in Saigon, although her five-year-old son Dao survives the crash. Thien takes both Dao and his sister-in-law's body to the rural village where he grows up. Through a series of loosely connected events like a funeral and other Catholic ceremonies, he sees life in the countryside. Thien meets an old man, who tells his stories of surviving the Vietnam War. He goes out hunting with Dao, and awkwardly reconnects with Thao, a childhood friend with whom he had attempted to form a romantic relationship when younger. Thao has become a nun and works in a school administered by nuns. He takes Dao to the same school where most of the students are highlanders. He also learns that his brother had considered becoming a priest rather than getting married. He shows a wedding picture of the two found on Teresa's body to the villagers, but the search remains fruitless.



Director's Biography : Pham Thien An, born in November 1989, at Lam Dong Province, Vietnam, is a film director, producer and screenwriter. After four years of undergraduate studies in Information Technology at Lotus University, Ho Chi Minh City, he realized his interest in cinematography and filmmaking. In recent years, he has won several film awards in Vietnam. In 2015, he moved to Houston, Texas (USA) and continued working as a freelance filmmaker. His short film *The Mute* (2018) has travelled across several film festivals (Winterthur, Palms Spring, Uppsala, Encounters, etc). This year he shot *Stay Awake, Be Ready* which was supported by CJ Short Film Making Project.