

The Questors Theatre Archives
Questories
New Plays Festivals
12th Festival 1971

UNIDENTIFIED

THEY STEP FROM FILM

THE Vietnam War was brought home to Ealing on Tuesday evening at the Questors when, by clever use of film, acting and dialogue, the play "Bleach" by Arnold Meyer, demonstrated the small personal tragedies that can overcome a fighting soldier.

Michael Noakes as Bleach, an American soldier boy, summed up the message, when he said the phrase "Kill people" was only words, but there was blood in the mouths of those who said them.

Films of incidents and close-ups of soldiers in Vietnam were projected onto a slit backcloth, enabling the actors literally to step out of the film.

The climax comes when Bleach, with his friend, John (Alan Chisholm), finds a Vietnamese boy (David Morris), who appeared friendly. The tragedy is they do not know which side he was from. Because of their suspicion, the boy becomes worried, and is killed accidentally in a tussle with the men.

This death preys on John's mind, and his character changes completely.

Mike Custance directed, John Stacey designed the set and John Stothart supplied film sequences.

J. H.