



Adrift directed by Chuyên Bui Thac starring Do Thi Hai Yen, Linh Dan Pham and Nguyen Duy
Photo: uncredited

Movie Review: Adrift aka Choi Voi (2009) the emergence of new passion in Hanoi

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PT

By **Pamela Alexande...**, SF Movies Examiner

Director [Chuyên Bui Thac](#) presents a lush, sensual and drewy film about emerging sensuality in **Adrift**. The film is reminiscent of [Tr?n Anh Hùng's](#) classic [Scent of Green Papaya](#). But Hùng's story is about old Vietnam, it's old ways and old traditions. Thac's **Adrift** looks squarely at the beginning of the transformation of a woman from a artless innocent to awakened woman in modern Hanoi.

Duyen ([Do Thi Hai Yen](#)) and Hai (Nguyen Duy Khoa) are newlyweds, but they seem more like siblings that husband and wife. The early scenes of Duyen and Hai are fill with light, color and vast open shots of teaming people filling the streets of Hanoi. The glow of Duyen and Hai's innocence is in plain view. Although, Duyen doesn't expect much because "If you don't expect too much, everything's simple," she does have sense that sex is a part of her duty, but Hai is uninterested and their marriage remains unconsummated.

But open vistas lead to dank passages, small rooms and dark corners. In these rooms everything is in shadow, candlelight or moonlight. The juxtaposition of light and dark creates haunting drama, mystery and tension. Duyen has a friend Cam ([Linh-Dan Pham](#)), a worldly, sophisticated writer, who does not believe that Duyen and Hai's marriage will last. Cam proceeds to throw Duyen in the path of Tho ([Johnny Tri Nguyen](#)), a handsome, experienced and potent tourist guide. When Duyen meets Tho she is quickly seduced by him.

This seduction and the series of events that lead up to it open Duyen's eyes to her own desire as well as that of others around her and signals the emergence of a new philosophy regarding love and passion. In the final scenes of rain-soaked city streets reflect the emotion laden falling away of Duyen's innocence and the emergence of a new uncharted way of life.

Cast (credited cast):

Do Thi Hai Yen (Duyen), Linh Dan Pham (Cam), Nguyen Duy Khoa (Hai), Johnny Tri Nguyen (Tho).

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Release Date: 6 September 2009 (Venice Film Festival). Director by Chuyên Bui Thac; written by [Phan Dang Di](#); released by Global Film Initiative. Running time: 110 minutes; MPAA NR; genre: Documentary.

Playing at [Mill Valley Film Festival](#) on Friday, October 09, 2010 at 4:45PM, at the Smith Rafael Film Center, San Rafael.

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