

2015 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE ♦ BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

★ LAST ★ DAYS IN WESTNAM



PBS
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1 X 98, 1 X 114 HD

★ LAST ★ DAYS IN VIETNAM

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“Observant, incisive, and at times both heartrending and inspiring,”

— *Hollywood Reporter*

During the chaotic final days of the Vietnam War, as the North Vietnamese Army closed in on Saigon, South Vietnamese resistance crumbled. City after city and village after village fell to the North while the few U.S. diplomats and military operatives still in the country contemplated withdrawal. With the lives of thousands of South Vietnamese hanging in the balance, those in control faced an impossible decision—who would go and who would be left behind to face brutality, imprisonment, or even death. *Last Days in Vietnam*, a 2015 Academy Award® Nominee for Best Documentary Feature, chronicles the little-known story of a war that scarred the national psyche of the United States.

By early March, 1975, huge swaths of territory were overrun daily by the North Vietnamese Army, and by the end of the month, they had surrounded the capital, preparing to launch the final assault on Saigon—eleven months ahead of schedule. To the U.S. diplomats and military operatives still in Saigon, one thing was clear—a Communist victory was inevitable. The Americans grew increasingly concerned for the safety of their South Vietnamese allies, co-workers, and friends. Even the most ambitious U.S. evacuation plan allowed for the transport of just a few thousand South Vietnamese refugees. But by April 25, the number of people in Saigon wishing to flee swelled far beyond that projection—to roughly a million.

With the clock ticking and the city under fire, American officers on the ground found themselves faced with a moral dilemma: whether to follow official policy and evacuate U.S. citizens and their dependents only—or to break the law and save the men, women, and children they had come to value and love in their years in Vietnam. At the risk of their careers and possible court-martial, a handful of individuals took matters into their own hands. Engaging in unsanctioned and often makeshift operations, they waged a desperate effort to save as many South Vietnamese lives as possible.

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AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

CREDITS

A Moxie Production for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

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