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## Television Review

# History lives in one man's struggle

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GLOBE STAFF

American history of the '60s, '70s, and '80s comes searingly alive in a documentary called "Another Brother," about the tough, short life and uplifting struggles of Clarence Fitch. The modestly made, impressive 50-minute film, obviously a labor of love for producer Tami Gold, airs on Channel 44 Friday at 10 p.m.

Fitch was a battler. An African-American Marine in Vietnam, he first battled enemy soldiers, then the US government for prosecuting that war. Next, he battled the drugs he was introduced to in the service and the demons of racism he encountered in Vietnam and back home in New Jersey. Finally, some time after kicking a 13-year heroin habit, he battled AIDS — both as a patient and an advocate for other people living with the disease.

What makes "Another Brother" so powerful is its sharp personal focus and unaffected simplicity. It begins with Fitch's now grown daughter Kiwan sorting through old photos of her late father, a haunted-looking man with serious eyes. She's hungry for knowledge about him, eager to understand his legacy and pass it on to her toddler son. The film goes on to uncover and explore that legacy — a shining spirit of defiance and compassion in a flawed man who died an early death in 1990, saying he felt he'd been "pretty lucky."

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### ANOTHER BROTHER

Produced and directed by: *Tami Gold*

On: *WGBX, Ch. 44*

Time: *tonight, 10-11*

Fitch never stopped fighting injustice where he saw it — as a union official, a leader of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and a peace delegate in Nicaragua and Panama.

Part of what makes his story dramatic is that as a shy young man he seemed such an unlikely candidate for public activism. The war, "Another Brother" makes painfully clear, remade Fitch. It drew him to drugs and despair but also awakened his awareness of social problems and filled him with anger he channeled into tireless, constructive public pro-

test. After his military training but before leaving for Asia in 1967, he returned home to Jersey City when nearby Newark was itself a smoking battlefield. Riots had broken out, and "Another Brother" contrasts images of National Guardsmen there holding African-Americans at rifle-point with disturbing pictures of action in Vietnam.

"Another Brother" is told from the point of view of Kiwan and with the help of Fitch's mother and sister and second wife as well as fellow antiwar veterans. All admire his activism and notable strengths of character, but what makes this film appealing and true are the complexly human dimensions of the portrait it paints.

Not unlike many other people as publicly oriented and idealistically driven, Fitch had difficulties with intimacy. His widow — the film's associate producer, Elena Schowlsky-Fitch — recalls the time he was hospitalized with AIDS and couldn't speak but wanted to scribble a message. She had fantasies he wanted to pen a love note. In fact, he asked how Jesse Jackson was doing in the presidential primaries. "That was Clarence," she says, resigned, as she must always have been, to her husband's obsessive public-spiritedness.

In its vigorous, fine-grained evocation of one humble, extraordinary life, "Another Brother" creates a memorable impression of the socially tumultuous war years and their aftermath.