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## War through soldiers' lenses

By Chelsea Bain/ Movie Review  
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### OPERATION HOMECOMING: WRITING THE WARTIME EXPERIENCE

| Grade: **A**

Beautifully illustrated and emotionally powerful, Richard Robbins' "Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience" captures the war in Iraq in a new light.

The documentary is based on the writings of soldiers who have served this country. Robbins uses a plethora of visual styles ranging from animation to collages to re-create their poems, letters and journal entries.

Such noted actors as Beau Bridges and Blair Underwood narrate.

"Men in Black," by Army Spc. Colby Buzzell, focuses on one man's perspective of a day's battle and the sinking feeling that innocent people lost their lives under his command. It's an intense piece of work.

There's also "Aftermath," written by Korean-American Sangjoon Han, about an American soldier who is forced to shoot an older Iraqi man. As he sees him soaked in blood, he futilely lends him a helping hand.

Robbins also cuts his film with candid interviews with the soldiers and noted authors and war veterans Tobias Wolff and Paul Fussell. His film is nothing short of a visual masterpiece.

*("Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience" contains graphic images, profanity and violence.)*

Not rated. At the Coolidge Corner Theatre.

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'Operation a success: The 'Men in Black' piece depicts the toll of war.