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## Fighting words

movies by dan dunn

FEB 9

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Great documentaries illuminate the human experience and make an indelible mark on the viewer. Such is the case with “Operation Homecoming,” a deeply humanizing look at the men and women who fight wars from filmmaker Richard E. Robbins, best known for producing documentaries for the late Peter Jennings at ABC News. The film’s title is derived from a project created by the National Endowment for the Arts, which gathers the writings of military veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns. Robbins introduces us to a number of soldier-scribes, whose eloquent words are read by the likes of Robert Duvall and Josh Lucas. The deeply personal stories run the gamut from heart-breaking to uplifting, and the readings are enhanced with visuals gleaned from news footage, “home” movies and animation.

Robbins also incorporates interviews with celebrated vets/authors such as Tobias Wolff, James Salter and Tim O’Brien. While seemingly apolitical, the film makes a strong statement about a brave group of people — the American military — who are far too often sadly and tragically misunderstood.