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FILMEX REVIEWS

'VIGIL'

New Zealand, 1984, 93 minutes

7:15 p.m. at the Picwood

In his feature debut, director Vincent Ward has made the best film to come from New Zealand's small, emerging industry. Combining the reverence for nature and the psychological suspense of his previous short films, Ward has created a film of elemental beauty and growing tension as a young girl, on the brink of coming of age, resists the presence of a stoic handyman who threatens to take the place of her dead father, a shepherd in a remote, rugged region of New Zealand. Superb.

—K.T.

— Kevin Thomas,