

ER in the Congo



KISANGANI

Dr. Carter risks life in Africa when volunteers to serve victims of the Congolese civil war. In a change-of-pace episode, a sweat-soaked Dr. Carter (Noah Wyle) finally arrives in the war-torn Congo as part of a voluntary medical program and he finds primitive Third-World facilities, a few heroic staffers and woeful patients overflowing the tiny hospital while a bloody civil war threatens to engulf them all. Carter ventures deeper into the jungle to reunite with Dr. Kovac (Goran Visnjic) as they risk their lives manning a crude outpost used for a vaccination campaign -- and soon find themselves in the withering line of fire between the warring tribes.

THE LOST

Dr. Carter returns to the Congo to search for the body of a fellow doctor and reunites with several associates, but the chaos, stench, and danger of the country's long civil war threaten to curtail his efforts -- and again put him in harm's way. Elsewhere in the strife-torn country, Dr. Kovac (Goran Visnjic) is seen in flashbacks as he battles debilitating malaria while he ministers to the sick and dying in a land where life is cheap at best.

MAKEMBA

On Christmas Eve, a chilled emergency room staff do their best to observe the holiday while a crusading Dr. Carter (Noah Wyle) does the same half a world away in a run-down Congolese medical clinic as recent flashbacks reveal his clashes with Makemba (guest star Thandie Newton, "Mission: Impossible 2"), a beautiful native AIDS worker over the meagre resources -- and they slowly fall in love. As Carter re-adjusts to the heat, filth and dangers of the region, he keeps in touch with his Chicago friends and embarks on a personal mission to save a pregnant mother who is dying of AIDS, he is confronted by anti-Americanism from his French comrades. Even so, Carter is determined to bring the joy and love of Christmas to the local children of Kisingani.