E6740 ENTER THE DRAGON (1973)
(Other titles: The deadly three; Long zheng hu dou; Operation Dragon)

Credits: director, Robert Clouse; writer, Michael Allin.
Cast: Bruce Lee, John Saxon, Kien Shih, Ahna Capri, Jim Kelly, Robert Wall.
Summary: Martial arts action/adventure film set in Hong Kong and vicinity in 1973. Lee, a member of a Shaolin Temple, is a master of the physical and spiritual disciplines of the martial arts. Lee has been invited to a tri-annual martial arts tournament held on an island owned by Han (Shih), a reclusive billionaire who was once a member of the Temple but has now become a renegade. The British police believe Han uses his tournaments as cover for narcotic and prostitution activities. Lee reluctantly agrees to enter the tournament, but his reluctance to confront Han disappears when another Shaolin monk reveals that during the previous staging of this tournament, he and Lee's sister were accosted by several toughs led by Han's personal bodyguard, an American named O'Harra (Wall). In the ensuing confrontation the monk cut a deep scar on O'Harra's face but Lee's sister was killed. At her gravesite Lee vows revenge. Also attending the tournament are two American martial arts experts, John Roper (Saxon) and Kelly Williams (Kelly), who served together in Vietnam but took differing paths on their discharge. Roper is on the run from Mafia gambling debt collectors, while Williams is wanted for killing two racist Los Angeles cops who first attacked him. All three soon find themselves at the mercy of Han and his army of martial arts fighters protecting his underground narcotics factory and prostitution ring.

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“Director Ang Lee lends his artful eye to a martial-arts epic” American cinematographer 82/1 (2001), p. 68+ [10 p.]
[Enter the dragon] [DVD review] Empire no. 133 (Jul 2000), p. 124.
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[Enter the dragon] [Video note] Sight & sound 3/12 (Dec 1993), p. 60.


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