G7297  THE GREATEST  (USA, 1977)

Credits: director, Tom Gries ; writer, Ring Lardner, Jr. ; story, Muhammad Ali, Richard Durham, Herbert Muhammad.


Summary: Sports/biopic set in the U.S. in the 1960s and 70s. The career of Muhammad Ali starring himself. Following his victories in the Olympic games, Cassius Clay pursues the professional heavyweight championship. Under the guidance of Angelo Dundee (Borgnine), Clay won the title from Sonny Liston. Soon after he converted to Islam and changed his name. When he is suddenly classified 1-A by the Draft Board that had earlier rejected him, Ali refuses to serve on religious grounds (he was a Black Muslim minister). His title is taken from him and he must fight a 3 1/2 year court battle with the government before returning to the ring to regain the boxing championship.

Bogle, Donald. Blacks in American films and television: an encyclopedia [GB] (p. 98)
Devine, Jeremy M. Vietnam at 24 frames a second [GB] (p. 120)
“The Greatest” Films and filming 23/12 (Sep 1977), p. 44.
Hertel, P. [The Greatest] In these times 1/28 (Jun 1, 1977), p. 23.
Hill, George H. (see under Parish, James Robert)
Lanning, Michael Lee. Vietnam at the movies [GB] (p. 236)
Parish, James Robert and Hill, George H. Black action films [GB] (p. 155-7)
“Tom Gries’ last movie” Film 54 (Oct 1977), p. 3.