

Throwback: Trouble Man



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Trouble Man has gone down in history for its soundtrack written by Marvin Gaye. A series of blaxploitation films in the '70's including *Shaft* scored by Isaac Hayes and Curtis Mayfield's *Superfly* were more valuable because of their soundtracks. Ivan Dixon, who played the lead in *Nothing But A Man*, directed the Robert Hooks-starring *Trouble Man*. Hooks's character T, was an alpha male fixer in a scandalous world of ghetto kingpins and his type was welcomed by Black audiences tired of seeing subservient roles. *Trouble Man* was inevitably compared to *Shaft* that came out a year earlier in '71 and featured Richard Roundtree in a similar role as a private detective in the middle of a street war. Dixon's film didn't have the same pulse as *Shaft* and *Superfly* but really became known as a nice vehicle for Gaye's music.