

Throwback: Dennis Coffey & Luchi De Jesus-Main Theme To Black Belt Jones



[youtube id="6n90Bw9nf3g"]

Motown guitarist Dennis Coffey and American composer/arranger Luchi De Jesus scored the main theme for the 1974 martial arts blaxploitation film, *Black Belt Jones* starring Jim Kelly. Robert Clouse, who directed Bruce Lee's *Enter The Dragon*, was the director of *Black Belt Jones*. Kelly and co-star Gloria Hendry, who later became a Bond girl, had great chemistry in the movie, which was one of the three most popular of its kind to feature martial arts. Tamara Dobson had starred in *Cleopatra Jones* a year earlier and Kelly was also cast in *Three The Hard Way* with Fred Williamson and Jim Brown which was also a 1974 release. The influence of those movies and the less popular ones that followed flowed into Motown's *The Last Dragon* which became immediately popular after its 1985 debut and 2009's *Black Dynamite*. The theme song to *Black Belt Jones* is recognized for its massive funk riffs that had great synchronicity with the film's movement. In the rap world, the song was sampled by LL Cool J for "Jingling Baby" and Lakim Shabazz used it in "Sample The Dope Noise."