



## Heroic Ones, The

Written by: [Michael Den Boer](#) on September 26th, 2008



**Theatrical Release Date:** Hong Kong, August 14th, 1970

**Director:** Cheh Chang

**Writers:** Cheh Chang, Kuang Ni

**Cast:** David Chiang, Han Chin, Lung Ti, Lily Li, James Nam, Chung Wang, Feng Ku, Sing Chen, Lei Cheng, Kuang Yu Wang, Kang Liu, Chia Yung Liu, Pei Chi Huang, Chuen Chan, Wai Lo, Chia Wen Pao, Yuan Sung, Bolo Yeung

**DVD released:** September 16th, 2008

**Approximate running time:** 121 minutes

**Aspect Ratio:** 2.35:1 Anamorphic Widescreen

**Rating:** NR

**Sound:** Dolby Digital 5.1 Mandarin, Dolby Digital 5.1 English

**Subtitles:** English, Chinese

**DVD Release:** [Well Go USA](#)

**Region Coding:** Region 1 NTSC

**Retail Price:** \$14.98

**Synopsis:** Chu Wen a power hungry ambassador to the emperor Tang, pits Li Ke Yung the king of the Sha To province against a rebel general.

*The Heroic Ones* is an epic tale about loyalty and betrayal that was directed by Cheh Chang one of the Shaw Brothers most influential directors during the late 1960's and 1970's. His most notable films as a director include *The One-Armed Swordsman*, *Golden Swallow*, *Crippled Avengers* and *Five Deadly Venoms*. Visually *The Heroic Ones* perfectly combines melodrama with awe inspiring sword fights. This is an action film first and foremost with the film's only weakness being that there are too many lead characters that never fully get time to blossom.



The story as a whole is very satisfying as alliances are broken and no one is safe even from family from betrayal. One of the film back-stories is about two of Li Ke Yung's sons Li Tsun Hsin and Li Kang Chun who are jealous of their younger brother Li Tsun Hsiao who gets the approval they so desperately want from their father. This sub plot also leads to the films most disturbing moment was when Li Tsun Hsin and Li Kang Chun dismember their younger Li Tsun Hsiao. The real villain of the story is ambassador Chu Wen whose scheming for personal gain is what sets forth Li Tsun Hsin and Li Kang Chun betraying of their family. The way the film ends leaves Chu Wen's fate unresolved.

The cast are all very good all around with the standout performance coming from David Chiang as Li Tsun Hsiao. Also in Bolo Yeung in one of his first roles appears as General Meng. The score for the film features a music cue from the James Bond film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. Ultimately *The Heroic Ones* makes up for its underdeveloped characters with its wall to wall action.

### The DVD:



Well Go USA presents *The Heroic Ones* in an anamorphic widescreen that preserves the film's original 2.35:1 aspect ratio. Colors look vibrant and nicely saturated. Flesh tones look natural and black levels remain strong and consistent throughout. This is a clean looking transfer that looks detailed throughout. Even though the transfer is interlaced the image remains stable and there are no issues with blurring or ghosting.

This release comes with two audio options Mandarin and English. Both audio options are presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 mixes. Both audio mixes sound clean, clear and evenly balanced. These 5.1 remixes do a good job retaining the feel of the original mono source as they never

sound hallow or top spread out. Two subtitle options have been included English and Chinese. Both subtitle options are removable.

Extras include are limited to a trailer for *The Heroic Ones*. Overall *The Heroic Ones* is another strong release from Well Go USA that comes with multiple audio options and a clean looking transfer.

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