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SCREENING NOTES



A TOUCH OF ZEN

To be presented at Filmex 76, Saturday, April 3, 9:00 p.m.

A TOUCH OF ZEN
(Sha-Zen)

HONG KONG, 1975, 180 minutes, color

Eastmancolor, Cinemascope

Producer/Director/Screenwriter/Art Director: King Hu

Based on one of the STRANGE STORIES FROM A CHINESE STUDIO by Pu Sung-Ling

Cinematographer: Hua Hui-Ying

Music: Tai-Kwong

Production Company: Union Film Company

Principal Cast: Hsu Feng, Roy Chiao Hung, Pai Ying, Shih Chun, Tien Peng,
Wan Jei, Hsueh Han

1975 CANNES and PERTH FILM FESTIVALS

Peking-born artist and calligrapher King Hu sets his balletic kung fu tale of political intrigue and budding romance in a small town in the period of the Ming Dynasty of the 14th Century. The town scribe, also an artist, befriends a girl living near him and discovers she is hiding from the secret police, who have tortured and murdered her nobleman father. A police spy soon finds the girl, but his efforts at her capture are thwarted when she defeats him in combat, using the martial arts she learned in a Buddhist monastery. The monks practice kung fu, but use it only defensively in swirling battles of combat, including some night scenes lit only by the moon and torches. The chief of the Ming secret police engages the Buddhist head monk in a battle in which the latter achieves satori, his oneness with Buddha, in a climactic finish to this period piece.