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CINERAMA RETURNS

This is the news that we have been waiting to give you for some time. The I.C.S. is about to achieve the impossible. 21 years after it's demise, 3-strip Cinerama is to return. As the result of several months of discussions between yours truly, The National Museum of Photography, Film and Television and Mr Willem Bouwmeester of I-Max, we are delighted to announce that our long held dream may come to fruition.

Though I-Max themselves are not involved in this project, the intention is to install 3-Strip Cinerama in a specially constructed theatre at the Museum in Bradford, England. This is already the location of the UK I-Max installation. A typical theatre of the 50's will be constructed complete with Cinerama Red curtains and utilising as much original equipment as is practical.

All the parties are eager and enthusiastic about the project though we are under no illusions as to the immensity of the undertaking though the problems are not insuperable. A minimum time scale of at least 3 years is envisaged to open what will be about a ~~200~~ seat auditorium fitted with a full ~~180~~ degree screen. The Museum are making the initial approaches to Cinerama Inc regarding the rights to use the name and films. On the equipment side things are well under way.

£ 350

An original Cinerama screen frame has been obtained and Harkness Screens who provided the original louvres are providing the new ones. The projection equipment has been given considerable thought and the decision is to use Cinemechanica Victoria 8 Cinerama projectors. Machines A and C are already to hand but we urgently need the centre machine 'B' complete with jigolos. To produce a financially viable staffing situation it is envisaged that all machines will be in a common box and will utilise such modern innovations as Xenon lamps, continuous loop platters and computerised rack control. One man operation will be essential.

Much of Cinerama's magic came from its sound system, and the original speakers will be used. All seven tracks will be used.

The films themselves are the greatest problem. We need to trace the original technicolor matrixes or CRI negatives. We already have negotiated with the labs over print costs and, provided we can find the negatives our laboratory consultant can produce new 6 perf prints in the UK. Failing this we can print from old prints but the cost is horrific.

The cost of this undertaking will be considerable and the Museum will need sponsorship if we are to achieve a realistic opening date. Whilst the current

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project is in the UK, Willem and I feel that there is the potential for a very limited number of other installations around the world within the Museum concept.

Film wise we hope to show all the original Cinerama releases plus Windjammer. The demise of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in the USA must put in great doubt the availability of 'Brothers Grimm' and 'How the West' which now belong to Turner Entertainments who purchased the MGM library for TV exploitation.

There will be a full newsletter in September but I think you would want this news now. So get searching friends for that 'B' machine, information on → Found the negatives and the whereabouts of a Cinerama 70mm Curvature correction lens as we intend to put a single dual guage 35/70 machine in Bradford as well to cover prologues and allow us to present re-runs of Cinerama 70mm classics such as '2001'.

Finally ,a teaser for the next newsletter.....

There was started a sixth Cinerama production. Several sequences were shot but abandoned in the headlong rush to 70mm. Its title "The 8th Day". Details coming soon.

K.H.Swadkins. M.B.K.S.
European Rep; The International
Cinerama Society.

Final now opening will be
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