

THE INTERNATIONAL
CINERAMA
SOCIETY

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Another year has passed with slow but sure progress in the preservation of *Waller's Wonder*. However, every step forward is fraught with problems and the law of "Two Steps Forward-One Step Back" constantly asserts itself.

David Strohmaier of Lone Pony Productions is currently editing THE CINERAMA ADVENTURE, an amazing amount of new material having emerged for this still evolving video documentary. Several items given to David for this production have been donated to the Bradford Museum including two of the rarely seen CINERAMA BREAKDOWN FILMS. As an appetiser, selected sequences from THE CINERAMA ADVENTURE will be shown at the Bradford Festival. These include never before seen home movie shots taken during the filming of the Cinerama movies plus first hand accounts of filming SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD, SEARCH FOR PARADISE and HOW THE WEST WAS WON.

Cinerama Inc have allowed Lone Pony Productions to transfer sequences directly from their travelogue negatives to video for THE CINERAMA ADVENTURE. The triple images have been digitally remastered, colour corrected and combined to appear on the TV screen as if on a Cinerama curve. The results are excellent and have proved that the negatives are still savable.

THE CINERAMA ADVENTURE is primarily intended for television release but Lone Pony have agreed to subsequently make copies available for sale to enthusiasts.

THEATRE NEWS.

NEON THEATRE, Dayton, Ohio. The spring season of Cinerama showings is now booking and includes CINERAMA HOLIDAY.

SEATTLE MARTIN CINERAMA. Restoration continues with rumours that work on a new louvred screen is now underway.

PACIFIC CINERAMA DOME. After a chequered few months, it appears that the modernisation of the DOME will now be far more sympathetic than originally planned. The proposals for radical alterations including twinning the auditorium have been abandoned after a major outcry in Los Angeles at the possible loss of this prestige venue. As a result the DOME is now listed for preservation which prohibits any external alterations. Following discussions with the various interested parties, the consensus of opinion was that it should be refurbished and updated rather than altered. New state-of-the-art sound equipment will be fitted. Various options were discussed to alleviate problems resulting from (ill-informed?) complaints of image distortion due to the deeply curve screen, these including the possibility of building a new, lower, projection booth on the axis of the screen and the possible use of original Cinerama or D-150 lenses, currently in store. Another difficult decision will be what surface to use for the new screen. There is no perfect solution but one possibility would be to restore the long removed louvred screen. Strange how many of Fred Waller's the original Cinerama conceptions are still providing the solution. Who would have thought that the louvred screens would still be in use 50 years after their introduction. It has been suggested that Pacific Theatres consider installing, at the same time, their stored set of 3-strip equipment, to facilitate the testing of any new prints and, of course, they would be available for any future public revival. The original soundtracks were recently found to be in very poor condition and have now been copied to preserve them.

KINOPANORAMA.

John Lasher has traced the master material for the first dramatic 3-Strip Kinopanorama production OPASNYIE POVOROTY [1961], this translates as JOYFUL RACING CORNERS. Described as a sporting comedy, the plot revolves around two rival motorcycle racers who fall for the same girl, not knowing she has a twin sister. They will stop at nothing to 'get their girl' which leads them into an assortment of sight gags in the style of Max Sennett whose comedies were very popular in Russia. Shot specifically for the 3-Strip medium, the film uses audience participation shots from the 3-strip cameras to involve the audience in the racing sequences and was filmed using the camera currently owned by John Lasher.

Jointly sponsored by John's FIFTH CONTINENT MOVIE CLASSICS and Bruno Lemmonier's VISION 146 SARL, a 10 minutes test print has been made. Should all go well, they hope to have the whole 119 minute feature restored by next year. The only problem is that it has Russian dialogue. Show prints of the KINOPANORAMA trailer CHASTITY, TRUTH AND KINOPANORAMA are now available which makes it the first 3-Strip production completed for 36 years. Fifth Continent are currently trying to interest sponsors in a special Kinopanorama production for public exhibition during the Sydney 2000 Olympics whilst Bruno is planning to open a Kinopanorama Theatre in France.

ODDMENT BASEMENT.

Does anyone know of a magazine called TODAY, issued in London during the 60's. We have found several references to heats for a MISS CINERAMA 1964 contest at UK provincial Cinerama theatres but nobody knows who won. This is bugging David Coles so help him out of his misery and try to find the issue of TODAY for February 13 1964 which should have the results of the final at the London Casino Cinerama!!! Finally a blast from the past, an original 70mm print of THE GOLDEN HEAD is reported to have been privately reviewed in Los Angeles. This rarely seen movie was originally started in 3-Strip Cinerama but this was abandoned in favour of Technirama.

THE 5th BRADFORD WIDESCREEN FESTIVAL.

The planned programme is:

Friday Evening March 11.

TITANIC. 7-00pm. 70mm Print from Super 35. FLAT SCREEN.

Saturday, March 12.

THIS IS CINERAMA. 10-00am. 3-Strip Cinerama.
WINDJAMMER. [German Sound]. 1-00pm. 3-Strip CineMiracle.
HOW THE WEST WAS WON. 3-45. 3-Strip Cinerama.
BEN-HUR. 7-15. 70mm Camera 65. CINERAMA SCREEN.

Sunday, March 13.

CINERAMACANA. 10-00am. An Anthology of CINERAMA memorabilia including extracts from the Lone Pony Documentary THE CINERAMA ADVENTURE.
ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD. 1-00pm. DEFA 70. German. 70mm print. SCREEN T.B.A.
Sheldon Hall Lecture. 3-00.
GRAND PRIX. 4-30. 70mm Cinerama (Super-Panavision). CINERAMA SCREEN.
PORGY AND BESS. 8-00. 70mm. Todd-AO. CINERAMA SCREEN.

Monday, March 14.

SONG OF NORWAY. 11-00am. 70mm (Super-Panavision). CINERAMA SCREEN.

It is hoped that Louis de Rochemont III will attend the screening of WINDJAMMER. Louis worked with his father on both CINERAMA HOLIDAY (Co-Adaption) and WINDJAMMER (Assistant Producer/Co-Director). Mrs. Jane Schachter, who was with Cinerama Inc during their golden days and, I understand, was on the filming expedition for SEARCH FOR PARADISE, is also hoping to attend the festival.

As in previous years, details must be confirmed directly with the theatre and note that programmes can change at short notice when late arriving archive prints prove to be incomplete or unprojectable. As usual I have been unable to ascertain which screen will be used for the various 70mm items. Bookings open February 22nd and must be made directly with the PICTUREVILLE CINEMA, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM AND TELEVISION. BRADFORD. WEST YORKSHIRE. BD1 1NQ. Telephone Bookings Phone: 01274 732277. Overseas +44 1274 732277. Work on the expansion of the main museum is still in progress and the IMAX Theatre and Museum remain closed. Pictureville is using a temporary entrance on the main road, beside the Public Library entrance.

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