<u>GALLERY:</u>

"BEN-HUR" AND OTHER 70MM FILMS IN JAPAN



Come and let's enjoy William Wyler's "Ben-Hur" (ベン・ハー) at "Theatre Tokyo"(テアトル東京)!



A "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) ticket order coupon.

Some of the movie's reruns at various venues in Tokyo

After a successful Japan premiere season at "Theatre Tokyo" that lasted from 01.04.1960 until 13.07.1961 (season length 67 weeks), "Ben-Hur" opened in 35mm at various other Tokyo venues on 13.10.1961. Advert dated 12.10.1961.







An advert dated 19.05.1964 – "Ben-Hur" (ベン・ハー) at various Tokyo theatres. Further 35mm screenings from 20.05.1964.



An announcement advert dated 05.09.1968 (advance ticket sales from 06.09.1968), and on the right an advert dated 19.09.1968 – a second season (in 70mm) of "Ben-Hur" at "Theatre Tokyo (テアトル東京) from 20.09.1968. Note the prominence given to "Cinerama" (シネラマ) in the advertisements.



Another advert dated 19.09.1968. It is also announcing "Ben-Hur's" second run at "Theatre Tokyo" from following day (20.09.1968).

Yomiuri Online shows an image of "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) during the time of the second run of "Ben-Hur":

http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/otona/photonews/article.html?id=20140331-OYT8I50224



An advert dated 25.11.1968. Since November 1962 the "Theatre Tokyo" had been equipped with an original Cinerama screen – so, they promoted the 70mm screening of William Wyler's "Ben-Hur" as a "Cinerama" (シネラマ) feature. (See the Cinerama logo in all the adverts)

> スーパーシネラマ方式上映 Super Cinerama Screening.



"Ben-Hur" flyer from Tokyo's "New Toho" (ニュー東宝) Theatre from the time of the movie's opening (in 70mm) on 20.12.1968.



An advert dated 12.12.1968. Now from 20.12.1968 in 70mm at 2 additional theatres: at the Shinjuku "Musashinokan" (武蔵野館) and at the "New Toho" (ニュー東宝).

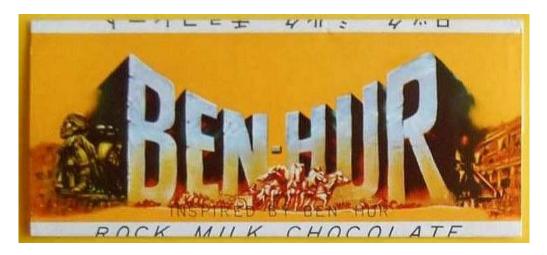
An article written in "Movie / TV Marketing" dated February 1969:

- "Ben-Hur" reissue takes massive US \$374,011 -

"Seven imports (one double-billed with a domestic feature) finished their roadshow runs in Tokyo during January. Grossing the yen equivalent of slightly over US \$1 million. Top money was taken by MGM's reissue of the 70mm version of "Ben-Hur", which played a total of 175 days at three theatres to 254,257 admissions and grossed \$374,011. Runner-up was Columbia's "Oliver!", which ran 107 days at "Yuraku-za" with 216,219 admissions and \$255,654.40."



Announcement adverts dated 20.04.1973 and 24.04.1973 – further 70mm (Cinerama) screenings from 28.04.1973 at the "Shochiku Central" (渋谷松竹セントラル), at the Shibuya "Pantheon" (パンテオン) and at the Shinjuku "Milano-za" (ミラノ座) Theatres.



Rock Milk Chocolate – inspired by "Ben-Hur". The cover of a chocolate bar.



A flyer about the movie's screening ["in Cinerama" (シネラマ)] at Tokyo's "Shochiku Central" (渋谷松竹セントラル) Theatre from 28.04.1973.



Adverts dated 14.06.1977 and 17.06.1977. A further Tokyo screening from 18.06.1977 in 70mm (Cinerama not referenced) at the "Shochiku Central" (渋谷松竹セントラル), at the Shinjuku "Milano-za" (ミラノ座), at the Shibuya "Pantheon" (パンテオン), and from 02.07.1977 at the "Shibuya Tokyu" (渋谷東急) Theatres.



An advert dated 05.04.1974 that informs about a broadcasting of "Ben-Hur" on the TV Channel: "Golden Movie Theatre" (ゴールデン洋画劇場) on 12.04.1974 at 9 p.m.



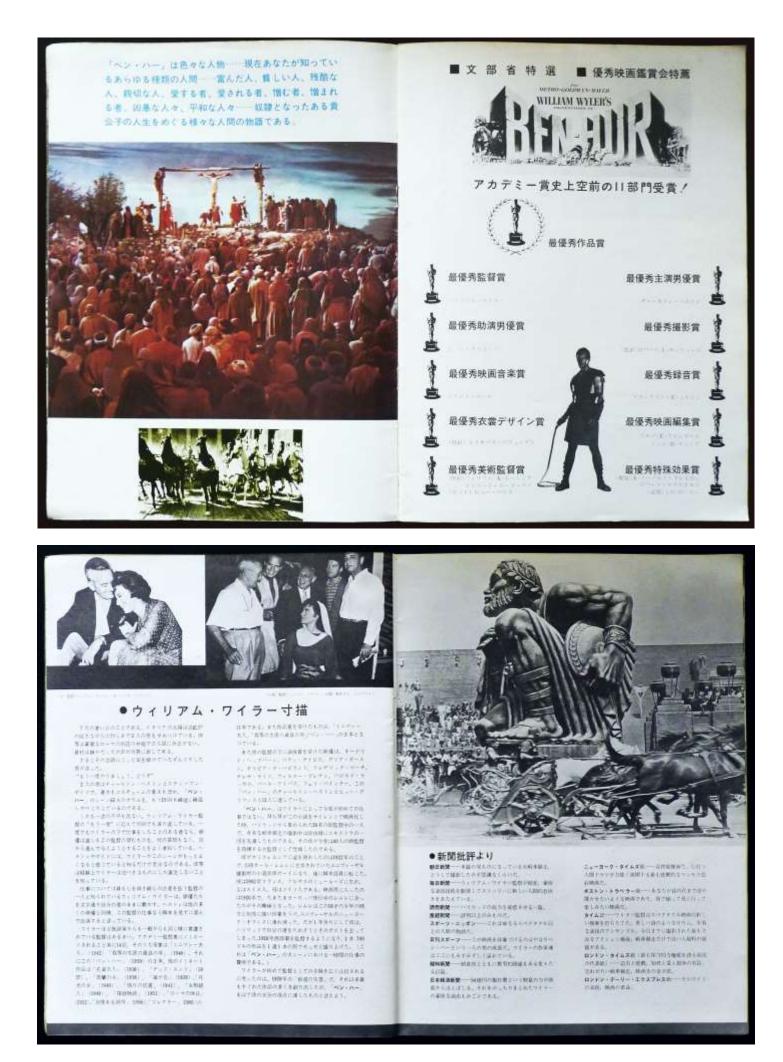
"Ben-Hur"(ベン・ハー) combined with advertising for other products (associated with lotteries in order to win a "Ben-Hur" ticket) – here "Lotte's Chewing Gum" and "Smoca's Toothpaste". (スモカ歯磨 ベン・ハーに ご招 待!) An invitation to "Ben-Hur" and Smoca's Toothpaste! On the right a vintage Japanese "Ben-Hur" (Chariot Race) Jigsaw puzzle with 726 pieces – when ready it has a size of 45 by 61 cm.



One of the movie's souvenir brochures – front and back side.

(From the author's collection)

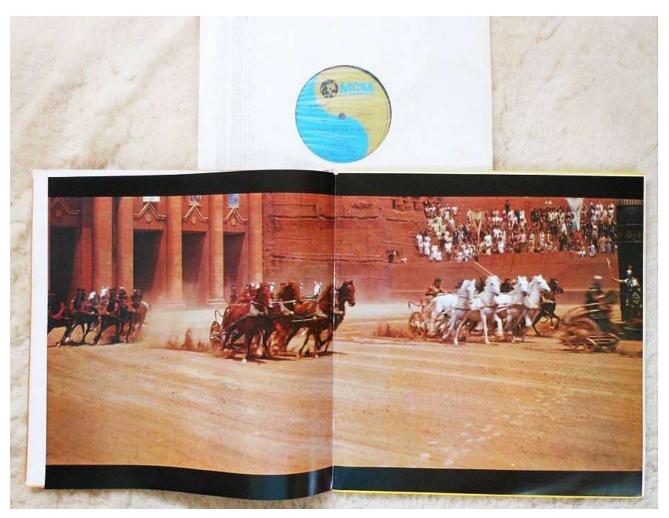




Above: pages from the movie's souvenir brochure.



A LP (MM 2009 – housed in a gatefold cover) of the Oscar-awarded musical score by Miklos Rozsa. (Thanks to ''lilimx722'')





A "Ben-Hur" student discount coupon ticket for Osaka´s "Umeda Grand" (梅田グランド) Theatre and Osaka´s Sennichimae (千日前) "International (Kokusai)" (国際劇場) Theatre.





The "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) opened with the movie "The Seven Year Itch" [(七年目の浮気), USA, 1955] in CinemaScope (シネマスコープ) on 01.11.1955. The left advert (dated 05.09.1955) gives information about the theatre and its opening film. Middle: an advert dated 31.10.1955 about the film's opening on following day (01.11.1955), and on the right the movie's souvenir brochure.



A "Gone with the Wind" [(風と共に去りぬ), USA, 1939] advert dated 14.07.1961. The movie was shown at "Theatre Tokyo" (a 35mm revival) from 15.07.1961 – it followed "Ben-Hur´s" long season that lasted from 01.04.1960 until 13.07.1961.



"Gone with the Wind" – a "Theatre Tokyo" ticket dated 09.10.1961 (Shōwa 36).



... and now the movie's 70mm version (an announcement advert dated 27.03.1967, advance ticket sales from 28.03.1967). It opened at Tokyo's Hibiya (日比谷) "Scala" (スヵラ座) Theatre on 07.04.1967. Previously, "GWTW" had its worldwide

<u>70mm premiere</u> at "Ascot" Theatre in Australia (Sydney) on 25.03.1967. On the right an advert dated 15.03.1968 – a rerun of the movie in 70mm (Cinerama not mentioned) at "Theatre Tokyo" from 16.03.1968.



Another announcement advert dated 29.03.1967 – opening of "Gone with the Wind" (風と共に去りぬ) at Tokyo's Hibiya (日比谷) "Scala" (スヵラ座) Theatre on 07.04.1967.



Flyers (thanks to "zettonandco") about "GWTW" at Tokyo's "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル) Theatre – the 70mm version advertised in "Cinerama". Opening in February 1972 (72年 2月), and on the right the movie's souvenir brochure.

Some further vintage Advertisements and Memorabilia



An announcement advert dated 13.08.1962. "Madame Sans-Gêne" [(戦場を駈ける女), Italy / France / Spain, 1961] in 70mm at "Theatre Tokyo" – Japan premiere on 18.08.1962. Middle: the opening advert dated 17.08.1962. The film ran until 08.11.1962. The theatre was then closed for the installation of the 3-strip Cinerama system for the festive Japan premiere of the 3-strip film "How the West Was Won" on 29.11.1962. Rightmost the movie's poster (with 70mm information).



An announcement advert dated 19.03.1969. Japan premiere of "Mackenna´s Gold" [(マッケンナの黄金), USA, 1969] in 70mm (Cinerama) at "Theatre Tokyo" on 05.04.1969 – advance ticket sales from 20.03.1969.



An opening advert dated 04.04.1969 – "Mackenna's Gold" (マッケンナの黄金) in 70mm (Cinerama) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) on 05.04.1969.



A "Theatre Tokyo" flyer of "Mackenna's Gold" (opening on 05.04.1969), and on the right the movie's souvenir brochure.



"Mackenna's Gold" – a "Theatre Tokyo" ticket dated 03.05.1969 (Shōwa 44).



An announcement advert dated 10.10.1969. Japan premiere of "Alfred the Great" [(アルフレッド大王), UK, 1969)] in 70mm (Cinerama) at "Theatre Tokyo" on 18.10.1969, and on the right a "Theatre Tokyo" flyer about the movie.



David Hemmings as "Alfred the Great" – a movie poster.



An announcement advert dated 24.11.1969 – advance ticket sales from 26.11.1969. Japan premiere of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" [(チップス先生さようなら), USA, 1969] in 70mm (Cinerama) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) on 20.12.1969.



"Goodbye, Mr. Chips" – a "Theatre Tokyo" flyer of the movie.



The movie's souvenir brochure. "Goodbye, Mr. Chips"(チップス先生さようなら) shown at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京), and at Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場).



"Goodbye, Mr. Chips" – a "Theatre Tokyo" ticket dated 11.02.1970 (Shōwa 45).



An announcement advert dated 21.08.1970. Opening of a rerun of the movie "The Bible ... In the Beginning" [(天地創造), USA / Italy, 1966] in 70mm (Cinerama) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) on 28.08.1970 – advance ticket sales from 22.08.1970. On the right an advert dated 27.08.1970 – "tomorrow opening".



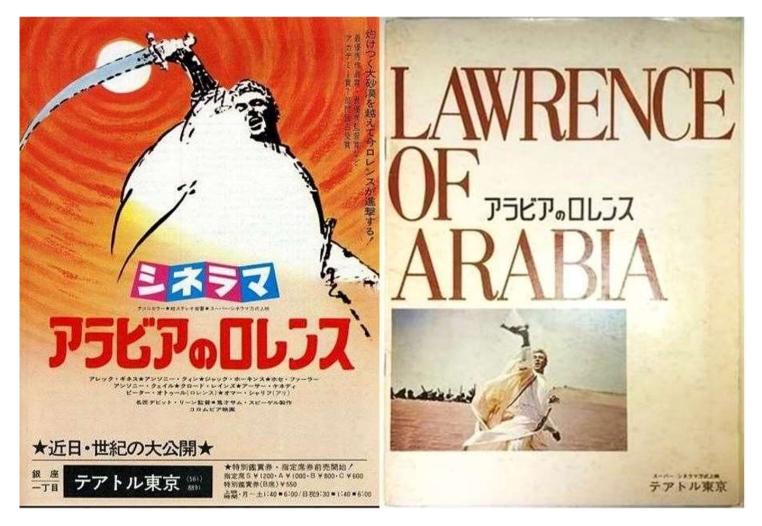
The movie's souvenir brochure – front and back side.



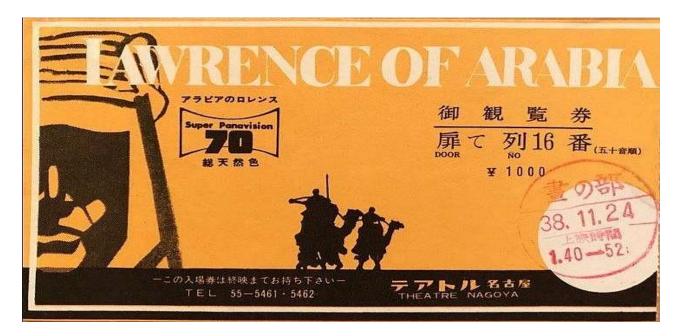
An announcement advert dated 05.02.1971. A rerun of "Lawrence of Arabia" [(アラビアのロレンス), UK, 1962] at "Theatre Tokyo" from 20.02.1971 in 70mm (Cinerama) – advance ticket sales from 06.02.1971. On the right an advert dated 19.02.1971 – "tomorrow opening". "Lawrence of Arabia" had its Japan premiere at Tokyo's "Yuraku-za"(有楽座) Theatre on 14.02.1963.



"Lawrence of Arabia" – a "Theatre Tokyo" ticket dated July 1971 (Shōwa 46). The film ran there until 15.07.1971.



"Lawrence of Arabia" – a "Theatre Tokyo" flyer of the movie [note the prominence given to "Cinerama" (シネラマ)], and on the right one of the movie's souvenir brochures.



"Lawrence of Arabia" – the epic at "Theatre Nagoya" (テアトル名古屋) in Nagoya. Ticket dated 24.11.1963 (Shōwa 38). After structural alteration works, the theatre was reopened with the movie "The Hallelujah Trail" (ビッグトレイル) as a single-lens Cinerama venue on 25.12.1965.



"Lawrence of Arabia" (アラビアのロレンス) at Osaka´s Cinerama "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) presented in 70mm [Cinerama (シネラマ)].



A PYE 45rpm single record featuring the movie's Overture (序曲 – 4:26), and Main Title (メインタイトル – 1:54) of Maurice Jarre's Oscar-awarded majestic musical score, played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.



A "Cromwell" announcement advert dated 22.09.1971 – Japan premiere on 01.10.1971, and on the right a flyer on the movie from Tokyo's "Pantheon" $(\mathscr{N} \sim \mathcal{F} \neq \mathcal{V})$ Theatre.



An advert dated 28.09.1971 – "Cromwell" [(クロムウェル), UK / USA, 1970] opened in 70mm (Cinerama) at the Shinjuku "Milano-za" (ミラノ座), at the "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル) and at the Shibuya "Pantheon" (パンテオン) Theatres on 01.10.1971. Note the "Cinerama" (シネラマ) logo in the advert.



An announcement advert dated 19.12.1957. Japan premiere of "The Bridge on the River Kwai" [(戦場にかける橋), UK / USA, 1957] in CinemaScope (シネマスコープ), and Total Natural Color (総天然色) at the "Hibiya Movie" (日比谷映画) Theatre on 25.12.1957, and on the right an advert dated 24.12.1957 – "tomorrow opening".



An advert dated 10.04.1973. It is announcing the movie's screening in 70mm (Cinerama) - a 1973 reissue 70 mm blow-up print – at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) from 14.04.1973, and on the right a "Theatre Tokyo" flyer about the movie.



An announcement advert dated 29.06.1973. Japan premiere of the movie musical "Lost Horizon" [(失われた地平線), USA, 1973] in 70mm (Cinerama) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) on 07.07.1973.

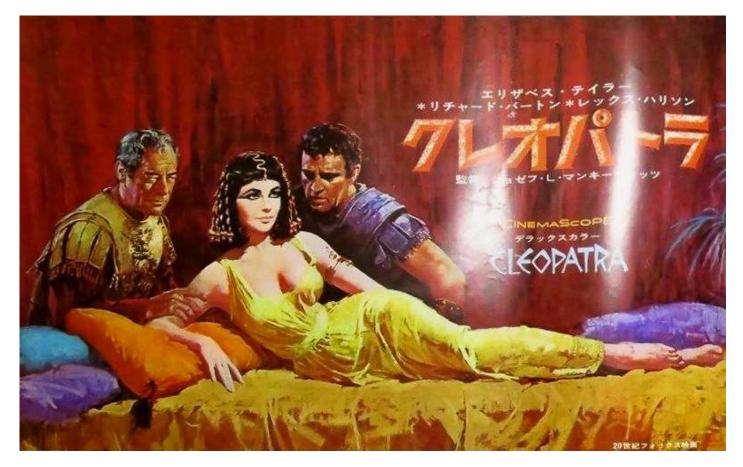


An advert dated 10.12.1974. "Earthquake" [(大地震), USA, 1974)] in 70mm SENSURROUND (センサラウンド). (三大劇場で歴史的 ロー ドショー!) Historical

Opening at three Great Theatres! – at "Yuraku-za" (有楽座), at "Shinjuku Plaza" (新宿プラザ), and at "Theatre Tokyo"(テアトル東京) on 14.12.1974 (Japan premiere). (ぁと4日お待ち下さい!) Please wait 4 days! / <u>Advertised in 70mm, D150 and Cinerama!</u>



Japan premiere advert of "Cleopatra" [(クレオパトラ), USA / UK / Switzerland, 1963] dated 25.11.1963. Premiere at Tokyo's "Yuraku-za"(有楽座) Theatre in 70mm Todd-AO on 26.11.1963 where it ran until 01.09.1964 (this venue was never Cinerama-branded). On the right a flyer about a rerun in 70mm at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) – the theatre's name is written on the back of the flyer. Note the "Cinerama" advertising.





"Cleopatra" – a ticket from "Yuraku-za" Theatre dated 19.01.1964 (Shōwa 39)

Today, the era of 70mm film projection in Japan – apart from a few exceptions – has gone. Eiji AOKI (<u>青木栄治</u>) reports on this subject on Thomas Hauerslev's website:

www.in70mm.com/news/2017/uzala/index.htm

...and from Thomas' "Storytelling" page: -70mm presentation in Japan -

"Until the 80s a lot of first-run theaters were equipped with 70mm projector and screen, some of which were in **CINERAMA**, or **D-150 format**, and many 35mm films were blown up in 70mm prints. Like <u>"Logan's Run"</u>, 1977.04.16 at the Theatre Tokyo (5 weeks, on Cinerama screen) et al. Unfortunately these environments were lost since late 80s for several reasons:

• Deeply curved screens were gradually replaced with ordinary ones,

• 1,000 + seated theaters were demolished and cookiebox cineplexes are built instead.

• Theatrical 70mm presentation ceased in 1993 with Cliffhanger. Some IMAX DMR films were shown in 2000s but 15/70 IMAX theaters themselves disappeared in 2010.

Now there are no 70mm-able theaters in Japan (from the finger-countable traditional theaters, too, 70mm projectors were removed). No <u>"The Master"</u>, no <u>"Interstellar"</u>, no <u>"Hateful Eight"</u> roadshows here ..." (written by AOKI, Eiji / Japan / 18.08.2016)

END

Written by Gerhard Witte, Berlin (Germany), 2018, with kind support from David Coles, Sydney (Australia).

All the images and information for this article are taken from the trade magazine "Movie / TV Marketing", from Japanese newspapers of that time, and, of course, also from the internet – especially from Japan's `Yahoo Auctions' ($\forall 7 \not = 2 \not = 2$).