The very first "Stadtkino" (City Cinema) had once been housed in Salzburg’s old "Festspielhaus" (festival hall) – opening on 25.12.1948.

The article above: "Stadtkino" (City Cinema) has opened

On Christmas day, the "Stadtkino" began with its screenings in the "Festspielhaus" (festival hall). Against the improper use of the "Festspielhaus" – such as boxing competitions, permanent screenings of films and similar – have repeatedly been raised legitimate protest votes. People fear that the solemn hall of the glamorous Salzburg Festival would now (outside the festival season) be degraded by simple everyday events without upscale festival character. But, as we now learn, the use of the "Festspielhaus" as a "Kintopp" is only a provisional. The City of Salzburg intends to erect a new large-scale cinema, which is to be built on Franz-Joseph-Kai on the site of the former Municipal Museum (author’s note: the former Carolino-Augusteum) – the building had been destroyed by bombs. Reportedly, this urban cinema is scheduled to be completed by October 1949 (author’s note: it opened on 01.08.1950). At first, it is planned that there will take place film screenings at the "Festspielhaus" only temporarily – until the beginning of the festival rehearsals in May next year.

The very first film that has opened "Stadtkino"’s provisional operation, gives hope that the program creation will have an equal ‘happy hand’ in future. This American movie The Best Years of Our Lives starring Frederic March and Myrna Loy (German-language dubbed and G-rated) deals with the present-day topic of how returnees have to get used to civilian life again. The award-winning film (author’s note: 7 Oscars) can only be recommended.

Advert left: The film The Best Years of Our Lives opened on 25.12.1948 at Salzburg’s first "Stadtkino", which was initially housed in Salzburg’s old "Festspielhaus". Picture right: the old Salzburg "Festspielhaus" in 1950. The festival began with a performance of Amadeus Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" under the conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler on 27.07.1950. Cars and hundreds of people were jammed in front of the "Festspielhaus". Picture from "Salzburger Nachrichten" dated 29.07.1950.

Text in the advert above left … "Stadtkino" in the "Festspielhaus" (festival hall). From 25th December 1948: The Best Years of Our Lives, the award-winning film of this time with Frederic March and Myrna Loy – in German language. G-rated! Showtimes: On Sundays and during public holidays at 02.00, 05.00 and 08.00 p.m. – pre-sale from 10 to 12 o'clock in the morning, and 1 hour before the start of the first performance.
… and now the opening of the newly built big cinema, the "Stadtkino" (City Cinema), on Anton-Neumayr-Square with the movie

**THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**

(Figaros Hochzeit, East Germany, 1949) on Tuesday, 1st August 1950.

Image left: The cinema in the 1980s.

The Progress film program of *Figaros Hochzeit* shows the Austrian actress Angelika Hauff (she plays Susanna) on its front page. On the right: a short review about the film from "Salzburger Nachrichten" dated 03.08.1950.

**Salzburg "Stadtkino": THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**

The passionate opera lover will not disdain to experience the Figaro plot here without opera glasses and up close. The cast (Erna Berger, W. Domgraf-Fassbänder, Tiana Lemnitz, Mathieu Ahlersmeyer), and the musical execution of the orchestra (Berlin Staatskapelle) compensate for some with patience to be tolerated lengths of the script (DEFA-Berlin). The decorations, especially in the last act, are after the current schilling rate (1950) unaffordable: everything is made of marzipan or lard – turned, twisted and in a Bengali kitsch style. MKH

IMDb gives following information about the movie **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0037696/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0037696/)
An article from "Salzburger Nachrichten" dated 02.08.1950.

Salzburg's most modern cinema has opened

Now, the City of Salzburg has got a really modern movie theatre. According to the plans of the architect J. Hawranek (Salzburg), the new "Stadtkino" was built in the immediate vicinity of the school buildings of the `Ursulines´ at a cost of 2.8 million schillings. Yesterday, it was opened and a quick tour convinced the visitor of the exhaustive planning and accomplishment of this new cinema building, which had been executed by the KIBA (the big cinema company of the City of Vienna) in the festival City of Salzburg. The building itself blends in well within the old townscape at this preferred location. If one could still decide to take away from the mighty school building of the `Ursulines´ the signs of decay, and give it a more dignified look one could really speak of a beautification and possibly also a cultural act – the nuns are not blessed with `goods of fortune´, and are barely able to do so on their own.
The cinema auditorium has 903 seats. It is equipped with the best ventilation system and has good acoustics. The engineering office Ing. Hampl (Linzer Gasse), whose owner had worked for ZEISS-IKON for many years, has a wealth of experience in this field. As we know, Ing. Hampl has already arranged numerous European cinemas. The excellent sound system was supplied by the company "Siemens & Halske" (Klangfilm / Sound Film). In the projection booth are the most modern film projectors that exist today. The head of the KIBA, Director-General Dr. Primost, then gave the press a "film fire", and it was amazing with which precision the individual technical systems came into action. It can therefore be said that everything humanly possible has been done in terms of fire-fighting measures. The cinema building itself also serves as an office building. 40 office premises are available on the floors, and they are already rented.

A specialty – you can also say place of interest – is the Winkler Espresso-Café. * Brightly lit, this American buffet features one of the biggest "Gaggia" coffee machines, its own fruit presses, an automatic "mixer" and many other things, which should bring visitors a bit of amazement.

The completion of the "Stadtkino" increases the number of cinema seats in Salzburg significantly. Thus, in this area, the impossible state of overcrowding ends, and it begins a time of competition that may affect in favor of the level and comfort to the visitors.

* The Winkler-Expresso-Café was a branch of the famous Grand-Café Winkler, a terrace café on the Mönchsberg in the historic City Centre of Salzburg – not far situated from the newly built "Stadtkino". In 1954, the bar of the cinema had been enlarged, and the Café was renamed into "Café 21" – also a new tenant, the Jeschek couple, had then taken over the management. At this time (for the first time in Salzburg) guests were offered American burgers and hot dogs. The "Café 21" was closed in October of 1984, and taken over by the "SZENE Salzburg" in 1987. Since then, it had different tenants, and ran under the names "Paletti", for a short time again "Café 21", "Café Orange", "republic Café" and since 2019 the "Szene Lokal".

Postcard motifs: The Grand-Café Winkler on the Mönchsberg. Picture right: The café terrace with a view of the magnificent City of Salzburg.
METROPOLITAN SALZBURG

Salzburg's biggest and most modern cinema, and the ultra-modern Winkler-Expresso-Café at night.

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Picture from "Salzburger Nachrichten" dated 04.08.1950.

On 14.08.1953, the World Premiere of a Movie at "Stadtkino"

**A Night in Venice** (Eine Nacht in Venedig, Austria, 1953)

Universal launches

_A Night in Venice_ at the Salzburg Festival

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Article from "Österreichische Film- und Kino-Zeitung" dated 08.08.1953.

On the occasion of the Salzburg Festival, the spectacular _A Night in Venice_, after the operetta of the same name by Johann Strauss, will celebrate its World Premiere at Salzburg’s "Stadtkino" on 14th August 1953.

For this big film, which is based on the screenplay by Rudolf Oesterreicher, and directed by the music film director Georg Wildhagen, the most outstanding actors were employed. The women-beguiling Casanova Duke is portrayed by Hans Olden, his Factotum Caramello by Peter Pasetti, the fisher maiden Anina is played by Jeanette Schulz. In other main roles can be seen: Marianne Schönauer as Barbara, Lotte Lang, Hermann Thimig, Annie Rosar, Alfred...
Neugebauer, Josef Egger and many others. The vocal parts are interpreted by first State Opera Singers, while the solo dances are performed by Julia Drapal – the Prima Ballerina of the State Opera. The musical work was in the hands of Nico Dostal. Walter Tuch stood at the camera. The architects were Eduard Stolba and Walter Schmiedl. The Viennese premiere will take place at "Forum-Kino" on 28th August 1953. (Author’s note: the movie opened at Vienna’s "Forum-Kino" on 01.09.1953)

World Premiere of the film
**A Night in Venice** (Austria). Advert left from "Salzburger Nachrichten" dated 14.08.1953

Information about Film at IMDb: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0140410/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0140410/)

The photo on the right shows the tastefully decorated façade of the "Stadtkino". Article right from "Österreichische Film- und Kino-Zeitung" dated 22.08 1953.

**Brilliant World Premiere of the Color Film**

*A Night in Venice* at the Salzburg Festival

In the presence of the Governor and the Mayor of Salzburg, the festive World Premiere of the color film operetta *A Night in Venice* took place at Salzburg’s "Stadtkino" on 14th August 1953. The numerous arrived premiere guests (including Inge Egger and Viktor Staal) received the film with great enthusiasm and strong applause.
The film programs "Illustrierter Film-Kurier" and right "Das Neue Film-Programm".

In West Germany, the movie also ran with the title Come into the Gondola (Komm in die Gondel).

-------------------------- CinemaScope in Austria --------------------------

An article from "Österreichische Film- und Kino-Zeitung" dated 25.09.1954.
Article above: CinemaScope in Austria: After the opening of the CinemaScope movies The Robe at "Gartenbau-Kino" in Vienna (author’s note: on 10.09.1954), and How to Marry a Millionaire at "Kammerlichtspiele" in Dornbirn, opened at the newly renovated "Maxglan Cinema" ("Lichtspielhaus Maxglan") in Salzburg the movie Beneath the 12-Mile Reef on Friday, the 17th September 1954.

The theatre was not only equipped with state-of-the-art technical facilities for film projections of all kinds, such as normal, widescreen and CinemaScope film and stereophonic sound, but it was also completely renovated and redesigned. Today, it is one of the most modern theatres, not only in Salzburg, but throughout Austria.

As the main title of the film appeared, and the curtain opened across the full width of the screen, a murmur passed through the house that soon turned into full enthusiasm. One could hear exclamations of admiration among the cinemagoers again and again, which increased into loud applause at the end of the show.

The "Lichtspielhaus Maxglan", however, will not remain the only CinemaScope cinema in Salzburg. The "Stadtkino" is currently closed (author’s note: It was closed on 12.09.1954) and is also switching to CinemaScope. The opening is scheduled for 1st October 1954. The opening program will be the excellent 20th Century-Fox CinemaScope comedy …

How to Marry a Millionaire

Also in October, the "Girardi Cinema" in Graz will open with the CinemaScope film The Robe, which is currently shown in Vienna. The "Girardi Cinema" has already been equipped with a CinemaScope screen, and currently the stereophonic sound system is being installed.

The telegram (see article above) of the Austrian postal and telegraph administration:
Address: Metrofilms Wien / 7, Neubaugasse 1 / Date 21.09.1954.

Beneath the 12-Mile Reef beyond all expectations successful (stop), absolute box office success (stop), visitors, press and theatre management are equally enthusiastic about Beneath the 12-Mile Reef (stop), "Lichtspielhaus Maxglan" in Salzburg.
Advert above left dated 11.09.1954: Today last day of the colorful spectacular *Du bist so leicht zu lieben* (Easy to Love / USA, 1953) with Esther Williams, Van Johnson and Tony Martin. A Water Ski Revue in Highest Perfection! G-rated. From Sunday, the 12th September (1954) the "Stadtkino" will remain closed due to redesign and installation of technical innovations!

Advert above left below dated 18.09.1954: "Stadtkino" – due to redesign and installation of technical innovations closed. IN PREPARATION! The new technical Wonder … CINEMASCOPE on a WIDE SCREEN.

Advert above right dated 17.09.1954: "Lichtspielhaus Maxglan": SENSATION FOR SALZBURG! Once silent film - then sound film - now: CINEMASCOPE with the movie *Das Höllenriff* (Beneath the 12-Mile Reef / USA 1953) – 20th Century Fox’s first CINEMASCOPE film in Salzburg. A film in Technicolor that combines the Wonders of the Nature with the new, groundbreaking CinemaScope method. Today premiere at 08.15 p.m.! Adolescents over 14 years admitted.

Advert above right below dated 23.09.1954: In "Stadtkino" – IN PREPARATION… the big reopening event: *Wie angelt man sich einen Millionär* (How to Marry a Millionaire / USA 1953) in CINEMASCOPE on a WIDE SCREEN.

(Author’s note: the movie opened there on 01.10.1954)
Salzburg´s "Stadtkino" has been equipped with a large wide screen and surround sound, and will be opened on 1st October (1954) with the CinemaScope film How to Marry a Millionaire. As the city´s second major cinema, "Stadtkino" is now able to present CinemaScope – one of the most modern projection systems. The new, twelve and a half metres wide and five metres high screen (12,5 by 5 metres), in conjunction with "Perspecta Stereophonic Sound" (author´s note: I think that they had also installed a 4-Channel Magnetic Sound System back then), will give each film a far more effect than before, and will bring out particularly good sound effects. In the funny comedy film, the well-known Hollywood actresses Betty Grable, Marilyn Monroe and Lauren Bacall are giving a demonstration about the problem … How to Marry a Millionaire

NOW !!! – Todd-AO (70mm film) in Salzburg´s "Stadtkino"

A Todd-AO film is presented in 70mm Super Definition, and was originally photographed on 65mm wide film. Every image on the film strip is around 3 times larger than that on a conventional 35mm film. You are seeing a brighter, more colorful and sharper image on an extra-large, curved screen! … 65mm + 5mm soundtracks = 70mm.
Article from "Österreichische Film- und Kino-Zeitung" dated 07.01.1961.

Note by the author: Already before, on 19.12.1960, the premiere of the very first film in 70mm format in Austria had taken place at the newly built "Gartenbau-Kino" in Vienna – title of the movie: SPARTACUS (USA, 1960).

Article above: Redesigned "Stadtkino" in Salzburg

ÖFK – On Thursday, the 22nd December 1960, the KIBA invited journalists to a press conference in the newly designed "Stadtkino" in Salzburg. The presentation had left a great impression on Salzburg’s journalists and radio reporters, and elicited general recognition.

The original English Perlux screen has a size of 17 by 7,40 metres (125,8 sqm). The pulls for curtain and masking arrived from Kiel, and have a special device for the "Austrian" stage curtain (author’s note: in German "Wolkenvorhang"), which is made of silk rip. This also gives the effective architectural impression. The equipment used for Todd-AO are Philips DP70 projectors – for normal, wide, and CinemaScope images are used Ernemann X projectors. For the 4- and 6-channel magnetic sound (as well as for the optical sound), the projection room is equipped with 4- and 6-channel preamplifiers and 6 Zeiss-Ikon Dominar M main amplifiers.

On the stage are 5 ZEISS IKON speakers of the modern type IKOVOX D. The surround sound is achieved by 14 special loud speakers that are distributed throughout the auditorium.
The optical equipment consists of "Kiptagon" Todd-AO Isco lenses, and for the other technical processes the ZEISS IKON lenses "Alinar" and "Ernostar" are used.

Dipl.-Ing. Architect Robert Kotas is responsible for the overall design of the theatre. The cinematographic arrangement has been done by the company "Kinolux" (as the official ZEISS IKON representation in Austria), and the necessary Todd-AO projectors were supplied by "Siemens Klangfilm" – the Philips representation in Austria.

Advert left: "Siemens Klangfilm" (Austria) – 70mm wide gauge film with 6-Channel Magnetic Sound, an unsurpassed image and sound performance.

South Pacific (USA, 1958) at Salzburg´s "Stadtkino" - the first film in 70mm film format at this venue. It premiered on 05.01.1961.

From today, the "Stadtkino" shows for the first time in Austria at 04.00 and 07.15 p.m. South Pacific. The new Movie Wonder in Todd-AO (newspaper dated 05.01.1961).
Below a review about the film from "Salzburger Nachrichten" dated 07.01.1961.

**Stadtkino: SOUTH PACIFIC Demonstrates America’s Psyche**

Revisiting this blockbuster – which we saw two years ago on Broadway as a demonstration of the amazing range of tearjerkers – was a delight because the audience reacted so very differently this time. Back then, people were united in their outpourings of joy, tears and excitement. Box office takings of 2.3 million dollars in a week were a clear reflection of these emotions.

Here, on a Thursday evening in Salzburg’s "Stadtkino", Austria’s second movie house with Todd-AO projectors, the sold-out theatre reacted as individually and as diversely as one can fortunately still expect from Europeans. While quite a few people left during the intermission, most watched the film, entertained or engaged until the end, with some of the viewers even mesmerised. The reason for this very different reaction is probably because, in our view, South Pacific is the best demonstration of the American psyche that the rest of the world has ever seen. What is America all about? A perfect answer is given here to this difficult and very frequently posed question: it is just like this movie! To explain just a few things, the plot is based on an episode from Michener’s Pulitzer Prize-winning "Stories from the South Pacific" – a collection of war stories.

This material, which almost calls for its own Lehar, became a wonderfully successful musical in 1949 thanks to Rodgers and Hammerstein. 9 years later, in its bitter struggle against television, 20th Century Fox brought the story to the screen through the Todd-AO camera.

Nevertheless, by our standards, this was in this case a failure. The film works whenever the focus is on the nature shots, the battle scenes, the images of soldier life – all grandiose in image, color and sound. But as a musical, the film – despite its appealing music score – comes across as a wildly kitschy caricature. To make matters worse, the cinematographer produced for some of the vocal scenes intensive color filter changes, which helped him earning the honorary title "Rembrandt of the film" among his compatriots. We found this partly unintentionally hilarious and were amused about it.
This brings us to the crucial point: is the film worth watching? Yes, because it is entertaining – provided you switch off your critical thinking – and because you learn a lot about the Americans, their naivety, their ideals, their technique, their kindness, their self-deprecating humour, etc., and because Todd-AO really impresses on the giant screen and on 70mm film. However, this is something conveyed even better by the demo preview kindly added to the program by that "Stadtkino" (author’s note: see the following links) than the main film. (up)

The March of Todd-AO: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdoIn-OEvA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdoIn-OEvA) or The Miracle of Todd-AO: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU76gdjr-Dk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU76gdjr-Dk)

Todd-AO-Premiere in Salzburg: *South Pacific*

From today, the Salzburg "Stadtkino" shows as the first film in the Todd-AO process the film version of Rogers-Hammerstein’s musical *South Pacific* with Rossano Brazzi (right), Mitzi Gaynor and John Kerr. A movie with a lot of superlatives: 6,5 million dollars in production costs, about 400 participating actors and locals, 16,000 soldiers, and a whole invasion fleet, 137 km 70mm wide roll film, etc.

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**South Pacific** only ran briefly at the "Stadtkino" – from 05.01.1961 to 19.01.1961, followed by the movie *The Miracle* (USA,1959) in 35mm.

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And now some of the many films that once ran at their premieres in 70mm film format at "Stadtkino"

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**Wilde Unschuld** (The Savage Innocents – in West Germany under the title *Im Land der langen Schatten*) ran from 26.01.1961 to 01.02.1961 / **Der Fischer von Galiläa** (The Big Fisherman) from 01.04.1961 / **Dschingis Khan** (Genghis Khan) from 05.11.1965 to 11.11.1965 (6-Channel Stereophonic Sound? – I only know it in mono).
Lord Jim ran from 22.04.1966 to 05.05.1966 / Der Kongress amüsiert sich from 06.05.1966 to 12.05.1966 (at the report’s end more information about the film in an EXTRA attachment). Subsequently ran from 13.05.1966 Mohn ist auch eine Blume (Poppies are also Flowers / AUT, FR, USA), not in 70mm. Previously, the film had its festive World Premiere at the "Wiener Stadthalle" in the presence of about 3,000 prominent guests and movie stars, and under the honorary protection of the Federal President, Mr. Franz Jonas, on 7th May 1966. (See the large-format advert above right from "Österreichische Film- und Kino-Zeitung").

Advert left: The film in Salzburg at two cinemas: at "Stadtkino" and at "Centralkino". Premiere on 13.05.1966.

More Information on the film "Poppies are also Flowers" here: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060848/
Die größte Geschichte aller Zeiten (The Greatest Story Ever Told) ran at Salzburg's "Stadtkino" from 27.05.1966 to 02.06.1966, and then followed from 03.06.1966 the movie 40 Wagen westwärts (The Hallelujah Trail).

From the Salzburg cinemas: **SPARTACUS** – a monumental film

From Friday, the 29th September 1961 at "Stadtkino":
A Grandiose Color Film of Incomparable Size in the 70mm Todd-AO Process on the 120m² Giant Screen!

SPARTACUS (USA 1960).
Until 28.09.1961, the movie The Glenn Miller Story (USA, 1954) had been shown at "Stadtkino". Then came the long-awaited Spartacus with its unique star cast, according to the advert above right … with over 10,000 Participants! The Exciting Battle of death-defying Slaves against Rome! A Message of Hope for Human Justice! Predicate: "Valuable" – 4 Oscars.

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20th Century Fox proudly presents a turbulent comedy that sets standards for the next 100 years.

Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines or … how I Flew from London to Paris in 25 hours 11 minutes (UK, 1965)

Die tollkühnen Männer in ihren fliegenden Kisten


The text below the picture above right: Today, one of the most unusual films of the recent years can be seen at Salzburg’s "Stadtkino". With a series of international stars – here Alberto Sordi – the film tells the story of the first aerial race between London and Paris.

In 1910, an English newspaper announced for the winner a prize of $10,000.

Colonel `Manfred von Holstein´ (Gert Fröbe) `on the high seas´.
The Comedy Film in Vienna

The film ran at Vienna’s "Gartenbau-Kino" from 11.11.1965 (Gala Premiere) in `Todd-AO-70mm`. Advert from "Arbeiter-Zeitung" dated 11.11.1965.

In the advert above is written: The Diaphragm Vibrates – Women Laugh Tears, Men Trample with Pleasure – A Turbulent Comedy about Love, Bravado and Flying. On the occasion of a festive charitable premiere (today at 8.30 p.m. at the "Cinerama-Gartenbau-Kino") a raffle will take place in favor of forgotten Austrian inventors and pioneers.

The first prize is a return flight to London (1st class, for 2 people) with ‘Australia's Around the World Airline Qantas’. Prior to the premiere, the celebrity guests will attend a Qantas cocktail in "Scotch". Eight of the best-known Viennese mannequins (dressed in costumes of 1910) will offer the raffle tickets to the premiere guests for purchase.

Julius Herrmann and his German Masters ensure a good atmosphere in front of the cinema and in the auditorium. Remaining tickets can be purchased at CENTFOX-Film, Vienna 7, Neubaugasse 25.
Laugh with your Whole Family about this Bottomless Lightheartedness

Those Magnificent Men … at Vienna´s "Gartenbau-Kino". The movie ran there from 11.11.1965 to 12.12.1965 (4 weeks and 3 days). Advert from "Österreichische Film-Rundschau" dated December 1965.

Closed for reconstruction

From 13.12.1965, the "Gartenbau-Kino" was closed for structural alteration works for 8 days. Just a thought from me: Did they possibly remove the cinema´s big, curved Cinerama screen only then? From 21.12.1965 the movie Mary Poppins (USA, 1964) was shown there.

End of the First Part of the Report