

January 10, 1956

New York, Jan. 10.—Although he's now aligned with RKO as an independent producer, David O. Selznick may take his much-heralded remake of "Farewell to Arms" elsewhere—specifically, to Magna Theatre Corp. as a Todd-AO entry.

Daniel T. O'Shea, RKO prexy, stated last week that "Farewell" was headed for a budget of \$3,000,000 to \$3,500,000 "unless he decides to go to some widescreen process." Other sources relate that talks are underway between Selznick and Magna, and there's nothing in the producer's deal with RKO that could restrain him from switching to Todd-AO with this property.

Meanwhile, a tipoff that Magna, whose first and only pic so far is "Oklahoma," is blueprinting a continuing production program came last week with the appointment of E. K. (Ted) O'Shea as v.p. and world sales manager.

O'Shea left Par after a nine-year association to join Magna Monday. A top distribution exec for years, he had been v.p. of the Par sales subsid.

January 26, 1956

Mike Todd Rocketing

Michael Todd left for White Sands, N.M., yesterday to arrange filming of satellite rockets for sequence in his "Around the World in 80 Days."

... Mike Todd, one of Fisher's closest buddies, admitted he turned the kid down at an audition years ago, but "I also refused to pay Martin & Lewis \$1,200 a week," Todd confessed . . . Todd then said, "If I had to pick someone to be my son, Eddie would be it" . . .

January 24, 1956

GOOD MORNING: Mike Todd turned grey at the temples after his chartered B-25 brushed the side of Mt. Whitney. Todd wanted to get "real close" shots of the mountain to duplicate balloon footage of the 'ps. Close enough? . . . Todd takes off tomorrow for NY to close a deal for a legit house in which to show "Around the World In 80 Days"

January 25, 1956

20th May Delay Start Of 'Carousel' in Frisco To Avoid 'Okla.' Clash

San Francisco, Jan. 25. — "Oklahoma" will open at a 1,200-seat nabe, Coronet, Feb. 16 on a two-a-day basis. Frisco will be the fourth U.S. city to see the Todd-AO product.

Result of decision on date is that Fox West Coast is now thinking about moving back the opening of "Carousel," originally scheduled for Feb. 21 in the 4,500-seat Downtown Fox, despite favorable CinemaScope 55m publicity already garnered.