

THE INTERNATIONAL CINERAMA SOCIETY.

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Formed in 1985 to preserve the Cinerama and Cinemiracle 3-Strip processes.

The Society is a loosely knit group of film buffs, enthusiasts, film people and ex-Cinerama staff spread around the world.

It came into being as a direct result of the recent closure of the last known theatre still possessing all the equipment, together with a complete set of prints. All were deliberately destroyed despite international efforts to save them. This spurred us on to try and trace what remained of Cinerama but what we discovered was it's virtual total annihilation.

Cinerama now have only one theatre (Los Angeles) and this can only project the 70mm version. All attempts to obtain information regarding the fate of, or the preservation of the original 3-strip movies have been fruitless. It's as if someone wants to obliterate the original Cinerama process from the face of the earth.

The only tangible remains of the process that revolutionised the Cinema are the records, souvenirs and other memorabilia.

In an ideal situation it would have been our aim to preserve at two or three venues around the world, the equipment and prints to enable generations who have never seen the system to experience the thrill and spectacle of Cinerama. Some members have even suggested that there could be a revival of the old films to cash in on the current nostalgia boom.

Realistically, based on the total disinterest of all the professional bodies contacted, we can only hope to collect and preserve at least one complete set of films and equipment to be held for posterity at a venue where occasional presentations could be staged for enthusiasts.

To this end we formed our Society.

There is no membership fee, we hold no meetings and all contact is by private mail between members. There are no costs other than those one is willing to incur. We are just Cinerama enthusiasts who would like to see it live again... All we ask is your help and enthusiasm.

By working together we have already built up the world's most comprehensive collection of programmes, technical data, recordings and promotional material.

If you have any Cinerama or Cinemiracle memories or material we would love to hear from you. We can offer a good home to any unwanted material and guarantee that it will be kept safe for posterity.

The first public performance of Cinerama was on the 30th Sept 1952 and the last known one was in New Zealand on the 22nd of Oct. 1966. In both cases the film was 'This is Cinerama'.

The Films were, in order of release, together with whereabouts of any known copy;

This is Cinerama.	1952.	Copy in USA Library of Congress.
Cinerama Holiday.	1955.	" " " " " "
Seven Wonders of the World.	1956.	No Known Copy exists.
Search for Paradise.	1957.	Library of Congress but no copy of prologue.
Windjammer. (Cinemiracle)	Bought out by Cinerama in 1960.	
	1958.	Library of Congress.
Cinerama's South Seas Adventure.	1958.	" " "
The Best of Cinerama.	?	No Known copy. Compilation from first five Cinerama movies.
Bing Crosby's Russian Adventure.	?	No Known Copy. Compilation from Russian version of Cinerama.. usually shown in 70mm form.
Renault commercial.	1962.	No Known Copy.

Note that the American Library of Congress do not possess any suitable projection or viewing equipment making their prints inaccessible.

There now followed the two MGM/Cinerama Coproductions which were partly shot in 3-Strip but which also contained sequences shot in 65mm and split in the laboratory. ~~We believe that MGM still have 5-strip versions in their vaults.~~ These films were 'How the West was Won' and 'The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm'. Both released in 1962. ~~No 3 Strip Copies Exist.~~ The MGM titles were also released to non-Cinerama theatres as composite 70mm and 35mm Scope prints. In 1973 'This is Cinerama' was re-issued also as a composite 70mm print. Again no copy of the version has been traced.

If you would like to know more please contact me. We would particularly like to know if any prints or equipment still exist in the UK or the fate of the same.

~~Finally we are trying to find a mini copy of the Stereo LP 'This is Cinerama'. This record is very rare and we would like to make a clean copy of it on tape.~~

Yours on behalf of the International Cinerama Society,



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