

THE INTERNATIONAL CINERAMA SOCIETY.

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Newsletter Two.

The Society was formed in 1985 to preserve the Cinerama and Cinemiracle processes. We are a loosely knit group of film buffs, enthusiasts, film people and ex-Cinerama staff spread around the world. The I.C.S. came into being as a direct result of the recent closure of the last known theatre still possessing all the special projection 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 the finest cinematic visual system ever exhibited. What we discovered was it's total annihilation.

Cinerama still exist but they have only one theatre (Los Angeles) and this can only present the 70mm version of the process. The only tangible remains of the process that circled the world in the 60's with over 250 theatres are the records, souvenir programmes and other memorabilia.

In an ideal situation it would have been our aim to have preserved at one or two 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. Many of the members had assumed that somewhere the Cinerama films could still be seen occasionally but, in reality, the process has ceased to exist. Now our hope is to obtain a set of the special projectors and to preserve a set of the prints at a venue where occasional revivals could be staged for enthusiasts.

To this end we have formed the Society. There is no membership fee, we hold no meetings and all contact is by private mail between members. There is no cost to a member other than those he 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.

Working together, the Society members have already built up the world's most comprehensive collection of programmes, technical data, recordings and promotional material. But we are always searching for more and we will offer a permanent home to any unwanted Cinerama material and guarantee that it will be kept safe for posterity.

The current situation regarding Cinerama is as follows:

The first public performance was in New York on 30th September 1952 and the last 3-strip performance known to us was in New Zealand on 22nd October 1966. In both cases the film was 'This is Cinerama'.

The 3-Strip films in order of release, together with the whereabouts of any known prints are;

This is Cinerama.	1952.	Copy in the U.S. Library of Congress.
Cinerama Holiday.	1955.	" " " " " " "
Seven Wonders of the World.	1956.	No Known Copy. <i>Holland with Dutch</i>
Search for Paradise.	1957.	Library of Congress but no prologue. <i>Sound track</i>
Windjammer. (Cinemiracle).	1958.	Library of Congress. (Purchased by Cinerama Inc in 1960).
South Seas Adventure.	1958.	Library of Congress. (Also known as Cinerama's South Seas Adventure).
The Best of Cinerama.	1967.	No Known Copy. Compilation of the travel-ogues.

Cinerama's Russian Adventure. 1966.

*Is in Holland with
dutch subtitles 70mm print*

Renault Commercial. 1962.

No Known Copy. Presented as a composite 70mm print produced from a compilation of extracts from Russian Kinopanorama movies. Kinopanorama being the USSR version of 3-strip Cinerama.

This film is also known as 'Bing Crosby's Russian Adventure'.

No Known Copy. Advertising short .

Found in Holland

The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm. 1962.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer/Cinerama Inc Co-production.

All 3-Strip copies destroyed, still exists in 70mm and 35mm versions.

How the West Was Won. 1962.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer/Cinerama Inc Co-production.

All 3-strip copies destroyed. Still exists in 70mm and 35mm versions.

This is Cinerama. (1952), 1973.

The National Film Archive has a 35mm print.

Re-issued in an inferior 70mm print.

No Known Copy.

) There were also various trailers, demonstration films, test films and continuity trails made none of which are known to survive. A Super 8mm standard screen format print of 'How the West was Won' with a running time of 17 minutes was issued by MGM some years ago produced from the 35mm composite version. Note that both the MGM productions contained sequences shot in Ultra-Panavision (65mm negative) and optically split in the laboratory for inclusion in the final 3-strip version.

The Library of Congress in Washington have no Cinerama viewing equipment and there-fore their prints are effectively inaccessible.

Cinerama Inc we understand do have a set of the prints but all the projection equipment has been destroyed. As far as we can ascertain only one projector and one of the cameras has survived and are in Museums.

The last two louvered screens known to the I.C.S. are due to be removed this year and ,we believe, only two deep-curve screens survive now in Europe.... The Odeon, Marble Arch in London and the Kinopanorama in Paris. Both are single sheet type...not Cinerama louvered screens.

) If you have any information about Cinerama please contact us. Every little item is a piece in the developing detective story of 'Whatever happened to Cinerama'.

Keith H. Swadkins.

European Rep; The International Cinerama Society.

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