

“The Todd-AO song”

from album of stage show, “Forbidden Hollywood”

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The dawn of television made an era end,
The big, high movies nearly up and died.
Then in '52 there came a big-screen trend
(another!)
To make the motion pictures extra wide --
Extra wide!
And curved on every side!
First came Cinerama's multi-strip precision.
Then Paramount developed stunning VistaVision.
But Michael Todd's process added much more room --
Seamless and curved, with a bug-eyed zoom.
Seventy millimeter's first big hope
deeper and clearer than CinemaScope.
Wo - o - o - o - o - oh! (Ah ha!) Oh, Todd-AO,
you're the widest screen I've ever seen.
And the wavin' wheat, at 50 feet
makes a two-seat surrey look obscene!
Oh - o - o - oh, Todd-AO --
Every song by Shirley Jones and I --
It's in sixteen tracks, and ta-da tacks
When her *tessitura** is too high.
You notice her lipstick and rouge,
And her ninety-foot boobies are huge.
But if you see (Yo!) ... this movie on TV,
You'll only see our teeth and our gums and our tonsils,
'Cause Todd-AO's too wide!
Ohhh, Todd ... AO
Ohhh, Todd ... AO
Ohhh, Todd ... AO
Ohhh, Todd ... AO
Ohhh, Todd ... AO
Ohhh, Todd --You'll notice her lipstick and rouge
And her ninety-foot boobies are huge.
(Yes too) (Wide)
(Yes too) (Wide)
(Yes too) (Wide)
(Yes too) (Wide)
(Yes too) (Wide)
(Yes too) (Wide)
But if you see ... this movie on TV,
You'll only see our eyes and our cheeks and our earlobes,
'Cause Todd-AO's too wide!
Oh, see -- oh, see "T-A" --
Oh, Todd-AO ... HUGE!

- note: “*tessitura*” is a technical term for professional singers, having to do with the optimum singing range for their voices.