

THE INTERNATIONAL
CINERAMA
SOCIETY

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February 2002.

CINERAMA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

This year, on September 30th, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the World Premiere of **THIS IS CINERAMA** at the Broadway Theatre, New York. It opened to critical acclaim and, as the old cliché goes, *The Rest Is History*.

The first of several celebrations of this landmark of the Cinema will be at the **THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM and TELEVISION**, Bradford, England, during the Bradford Film Festival's **WideScreen Weekend** from March 15 to 18.

The emphasis this year is on **CINERAMA** with planned showings of **CINERAMA HOLIDAY**, **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**, **HOW THE WEST WAS WON**, **PATTON: LUST FOR GLORY** and, for the first time in the UK for over 34 years, it is hoped to show **SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD**. **SEVEN WONDERS** was the last 3-strip movie to play in the UK, when it closed the Cinerama Tent (Itinerama) in Walsall on the 4th of November, 1967.

Note that **CINERAMA HOLIDAY** and **SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD** are faded Eastmancolor prints.

The high spot of the weekend is planned to be David Strohmaier presenting his documentary **THE CINERAMA ADVENTURE**, which tells the story of Waller's Wonder from *Gunnery Trainer*, through the halcyon days, to the current work on restoration. It is also hoped to show some of the 3-strip footage reprinted specially for the documentary.

To assist members who need to make early travel arrangements, the Museum has provided the provisional programme overleaf. It is, however, subject to change and it is essential to confirm details, any changes to the programme, etc., with the Museum when booking. For those who understand computers, I am told there is a **WideScreen Weekend** website. (see overleaf).

At the time of writing we are still trying to replace the missing 20secs removed by the German censor in 1962. (This Technicolor IB print was recovered from a German theatre). A replacement has also been obtained for the Museum's prologue to **THIS IS CINERAMA** which had, literally, worn out. Remember **THIS IS CINERAMA** has been playing monthly since June 1993, which must be a record run by any standards.

The completely refurbished **PACIFIC CINERAMA DOME**, now equipped with 3-strip Cinerama for the first time, is scheduled to reopen in late March and a brand new, 3-strip restored print of **THIS IS CINERAMA** has been made by Cinerama Inc for the event. The reprinting of **HOW THE WEST WAS WON** should be underway by now. Printing has been delayed by the discovery that the technique used to produce the fades and mixes in the original 1962 Cinerama prints was now obsolete. This resulted in considerable extra work to prepare the negative for printing on today's equipment.

Looking ahead, the next few years will see the Golden Anniversaries of several landmark movies and widescreen processes including the 50th anniversary of **CinemaScope** (Premiered:16-09-1953 with **THE ROBE**). Is there a 4 track magnetic print anywhere?

TODD-AO follows in 1955, (Premiered:10-10-55 with **OKLAHOMA**).

Two years ago, Susanna Moross, the daughter of Jerome Moross, contacted me.

She was trying to trace the original score for her father's contributions to **SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD**. Sadly none of the original scores are known to have survived but we were able to supply a tape of the soundtrack. Working from this and her father's piano score, she has now produced:

THE CARDINAL, The Classic Film Music of Jerome Moross.

Released by Silva Screen Records-SILKD 6030. This 2 CD set includes two 4 minute tracks from the score of **SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD**, **THE HOLY LAND** and **MEDITERRANEAN**. The quality of this completely new recording by the City of Prague Philharmonic, conducted by Paul Bateman, is superb. The disc contains several previously unreleased film scores by Jerome Moross, it is encoded in Dolby Surround and I highly recommended it.

Would holders of the now discontinued CINERAMA THEATRE LIST, note the following:

CINERAMA.

NEW ENTRY.

Canada.

Winnipeg. Grant Park. 70mm only. Opened 1968/9.

AMENDMENTS:

Denmark.

Copenhagen. Kinopalacet. Corrections: Cinerama Screen Removed Sept 1972. Closed 13-04-81. Demolished 2001.

United Kingdom.

Glasgow ABC Coliseum. Now Derelict.

United States.

Honolulu. Cinerama. Closed 30-11-99. 120 degree single sheet at closure. Stored 3-Strip equipment returned to Cinerama Inc.

Omaha. Indian Hills. Closed 28-09-00. Sold for demolition.

San Jose. Town & Country. Closed Jan 2000 and demolished.

San Jose. Century 21. Open as part of 5-plex with Flat Screen.

Seattle. Southcenter. Closed 05-08-01.

Tacoma. Tacoma Wall. Twinned 1974.

D-150.

Pleasant Hill. Century 21. Open as part of 5-plex with Flat Screen.

Santa Clara. Cinema 150. Demolished.

Seattle. UA 150. Closed.

Footnote: Noted in a recent rerun of a 1956 episode from the Phil Silver's TV classic BILKO, the line from Bilko:

"This will be bigger than Cinerama".

Keith H. Swadkins. W.B.K.S.

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WIDESCREEN WEEKEND 2002

From Monday 29 January, Widescreen Weekend passes will be going on sale, priced at £50 for adults for the weekend and £35 concessions -includes reception and goodies. To book your pass call +44 1274 202030.

The Bradford Film Festival website is now live, access it now on www.bradfordfilmfestival.org.uk

Information is being added day by day.

A rough outline to give early bookers an idea of what will happen.

Friday 15 March: 1-30: This is Cinerama. 6-00: Reception. 8-00: 2001:A Space Odyssey.

Saturday 16 March. Cinerama Holiday. How The West Was Won. Patton: Lust For Glory.

Sunday 17 March. Cinerama Adventure. Seven Wonders of the World. Where Eagles Dare.

Monday 18 March. T.B.A.

HOTELS.

HILTON: www.bradford.hilton.com Telephone: +44 1274 734734.

Bradford Film Festival Rates: Friday/Saturday/Sunday: £60 double, £45 single (including breakfast and subsidized parking).

Monday to Thursday: £80 double, £70 single (including breakfast and subsidized parking).

MIDLAND HOTEL. Telephone: +44 1274 735735.

Bradford Film Festival Rates: Friday/Saturday/Sunday: £49.99 double, £45.00 single (including breakfast).

Monday to Thursday: £70.00 double, £60.00 single (including breakfast).