

August 8, 1955

David Niven sez the Four Star outfit would switch from tv to feature filming today if they had a script to shoot. Niven bounces from the Gobel pic at Par to "Around the World in 80 Days" for Todd.

August 9, 1955

Mike Todd Pays 100G For Korda's Remaining Interest in 'World'

New York, Aug. 8.—Mike Todd has bought out Alexander Korda's remaining interest, 6 3/4%, in "Around the World in 80 Days," currently shooting in the Todd-AO process in Chinchon, Spain.

Korda, who originally owned the film rights to the Jules Verne book, sold out to Todd but retained the small interest, which also gave him distribution rights, in the eventual printdown to 35m, in Germany, Austria and the Saar. In selling out to Todd for a price said to be around \$100,000, Korda also gave up the sectional distribution privileges.

Todd, with six cameras and six units now shooting in Chinchon and the Alps, has virtually converted the small Spanish town to one large bull ring for the Cantinflas bullfight sequences. For added authenticity, besides dressing over 6,000 of the population in the costumes of a century ago, Todd has signed famed bullfighter Luis Dominguin to do the "warm-up" bullfight before Cantinflas' appearance. Film ends its Spanish sequences Aug. 17, then company moves to London for scenes with Noel Coward.

Todd, who flew in from Europe yesterday, returns to London and then to Spain tomorrow afternoon. He said the picture's budget, at this time, is \$3,800,000.

August 12, 1955

During 'Around World' Trek, Niven to Telense 'Four Star' Backgrounds

Four Stars Productions cameraman will accompany David Niven during Japan and India shooting sessions on Mike Todd's "Around the World in 80 Days," to shoot background footage for CBS-TV's "Four Star Playhouse." Todd gave Niven permission to have the vid-pix cameraman along during times when the English actor is not personally involved in "80 Days" shooting.

Background footage is part of Four Star program to bring more "international" flavor into the vid-pix series next season. Charles Boyer, like Niven a Four Star v.p. as well as one of series' stars, is currently shooting two stanzas in Paris.

August 17, 1955

Bull Tosses Camera; Delays 'World'

Chinchon, Spain, August 16. Production on Michael Todd's "Around the World in 80 Days" was halted abruptly today during the filming of the bullfight sequence with Luis Miguel Dominguin when the bull charged the Todd-AO cameras, smashing the huge 128-degree "bugeye" wide-angle lens.

Producer-director John Farrow, who was standing beside the camera with Todd and the camera crew, says that when the bull neared the matador the animal caught a glimpse of his own reflection in the big lens and shattered it with his horn. No one was hurt, and the camera and shutter escaped damage.

Production has been suspended for 48 hours while a new lens is being air-mailed from the American Optical Company in Southbridge, Mass.

'Okla.' To Open Here At Egyptian Oct. 19

Rodgers and Hammerstein's filmization of "Oklahoma" will be world-premiered Oct. 11 at the Rivoli Theatre, NY, it was disclosed yesterday by Hammerstein and Joseph M. Schenck, board chairman of Magna Theatre Corp., which will distribute the first picture lensed in the widescreen Todd-AO.

Film will be premiered in Hollywood at the Egyptian Theatre on Oct. 19, with official delegations from the state of Oklahoma attending both events. Magna also is lining up other key city bookings, all on a reserved-seat, road-show basis, with two hour and one-half production to play two or more performances daily.

Within a year, 50 major theatres in the U.S. will be playing musical, plus many theatres in world's capital cities, according to plans.

August 18, 1955

Mike Todd's "Around the World in 80 Days" may wind up as "Around the World With 80 Guest Stars."

Mike Todd Due Today

Michael Todd planes in this morning from Madrid to run the rushes of "Around the World In 80 Days," currently shooting in Spain.

London.—One of the busiest offices in London right now is the headquarters of the Michael Todd Co. at 111 Wardour St., where European production manager Cecil Foster Kemp (who's just completed work on Hitchcock's "The Man Who Knew Too Much") is busy setting up Todd's "Around the World in 80 Days" and preparing for the arrival of associate producer-designer William Cameron Menzies, director John Farrow and his assistant, Emmett Emerson, and Mike himself. Next to arrive, early next month, is scripter S. J. Perelman, who will be followed by David Niven and Cantinflas. London street scenes in Victorian times, which open and close the picture, should provide a grand opportunity for the Todd-AO bug-eye camera lens to do its stuff, and it's expected that the shooting of these scenes in the new process will prove a powerful tourist attraction. Locations will be shot in Spain.