

WINDJAMMER

THE VOYAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN RADICH



“WINDJAMMER: THE VOYAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN RADICH” to set sail soon in a new digital version. Widescreen film fans around the world will be thrilled to hear that a new, sharper, clearer version of the 1958 three-panel picture has now been created by the Cinerama Restoration Team. Its theatrical rollout is now nearing its kick-off and will lead to a new Blu-ray launch next spring.

Cinerama restorationist Dave Strohmaier previously re-mastered the triptych, digitally marrying the three film panels into one digital 16x9 panorama, and Smileboxing® the end results in 2011. Along with his re-mastered version of the inaugural Cinerama release, “THIS IS CINERAMA” they became the first two widescreen classics from the Cinerama vaults to be re-launched to theatrical venues in 45 years, and the first to be marketed to home video markets.

That 2K composite version from 6K worth of scans (2K from each of the three panels) was well received despite its’ visual shortcomings. It had been made from an anamorphic 35mm print of a photographed projected performance process of the picture. This process was conceived and overseen by Hollywood technical pioneer Linwood Dunn in the early 1970’s to provide Cinerama Inc. with a low cost, single-panel version of the original triptych. It bore many imperfections, such as on-camera rack focusing, *or timely lack of it*, and on-the-fly frame adjustments. It also hosted the inherent color shift, fade miss-matched between the panels, embedded dirt, accumulated scratches and rocky sprocket hole chatter of its’ 12-year-old source prints. The resultant capture, with these faults, was at best, only a dupe of a dupe. Another 41 years passed before Strohmaier got modest funding to begin re-mastering the title, using this as its’ most accessible picture source.

Despite those visual shortcomings, enthusiastic fan-based reception of it led to a re-financed Strohmaier being made able to tackle this new version by accessing the picture's Interpositive and in places where that was impossible due to IP wear, the original camera negative of the picture. Strohmaier now estimates his final assembly was created with 60% coming from the IP, and 40% from the OCN.

Now harkening back to the picture's original 1958 Harrison's Reports Exhibitors trade journal reaction, the results of this new version are "nothing short of magnificent". Colors are now more saturated and vibrant. The three panels are now more closely matched in color, and often, very often, the expansive picture is seamless. But most importantly, the picture is now clearer, so clear in fact that rigging lines on the ship and expressions on faces are now more realistic and pleasing. But even visual minutiae like buttons on shirts and laces on shoes are now omnipresent and relevant. From what had at times in the 2011 version seemed like animated painting, a true documentary motion picture has now emerged with all the clarity of the Cinemiracle three lens capture. This is the way the picture looked in 1958.

The whole film is now this beautifully revitalized and refreshing.

"WINDJAMMER: THE VOYAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN RADICH" is a one-of-a-kind true-life adventure following the trans-Atlantic journey of a crew of young sailors-in-training. Their 17,500 mile-long journey became the basis for the only film ever shot in the Cinemiracle widescreen process, itself a refinement of the tremendously popular Cinerama system, which was the 1950's pre-cursor to IMAX..

From a DCP source created by Cinerama Aficionado and longtime Cinerama Restoration Team contributor Tom March, Strohmaier and restoration producer Randy Gitsch will premiere the new digital version of the picture at Bradford, Yorkshire's Widescreen Weekend festival event held in the National Media Museum's famed Pictureville Cinema. That screening is set for Friday, October 13, 2017, on Pictureville's curved screen.

Dave and Randy have premiered 6 of their remastered Cinerama triptychs in Pictureville. They have now finished work on all of the 3-panel and 70mm features and shorts in the Cinerama library, a total of 15 titles.

Other European screening plans are actively underway now. Cinerama Restoration Team members Thomas Hauerslev and Anders Olson are readying new foreign-language subtitle tracks for various territories to accompany theatrical screenings almost anywhere. So as the original print advertising for the picture touted, first time viewer and returning fans can now look forward to knowing, ***"The Day You'll Never Forget is the Day You See Windjammer"***.

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