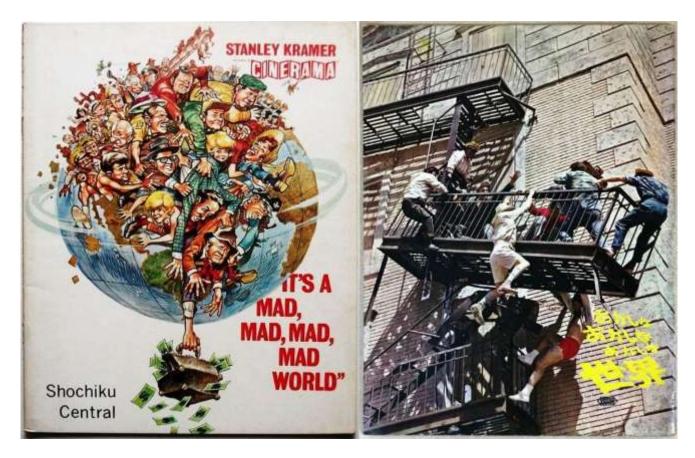
70mm Cinerama Films in Japan

A.) "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" (おかしなおかしなおかしな世界)
USA / Ultra Panavision 70. World Premiere on 07.11.1963.
Japan: Public Premiere at Tokyo's "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル)
Theatre, located in Tokyo's ward Chūō-ku (中央区), on 28.12.1963.

The film's souvenir brochure reads: – NEW, Cinerama projection with a single lens –

"With "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" Cinerama proudly presents a revolutionary new process. Eleven years ago, when Cinerama first emerged, the Cinerama effect could only be achieved using three projectors. Now, after developing the Cinerama single lens system, the Cinerama image has miraculously and invisibly been merged into one! This heralds a breakthrough, which Cinerama's optical scientists have been working towards for a long time. The Cinerama screen will be as large as ever; it will encompass you and wrap around you, but your eyes and senses will experience greater enjoyment and greater amazement through the unity and clarity of the Cinerama single lens projection, which "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" will be the first film to present."



The souvenir brochure (front and back side). Japan premiere at Tokyo's "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル) Theatre – at the time the flagship theatre of the Shochiku Company. The Cinerama advertising (シネラマ) in the following adverts suggests that the venue had a deeply curved, louvered screen at this point of time.



Movie announcement adverts: a full-page newspaper advert dated 26.11.1963 – $(12月下旬 \, \Box - \, \Box \,)$ Late December Roadshow (advance ticket sales from 02.12.1963). On the right an advert dated 16.12.1963 – opening on 28.12.1963.

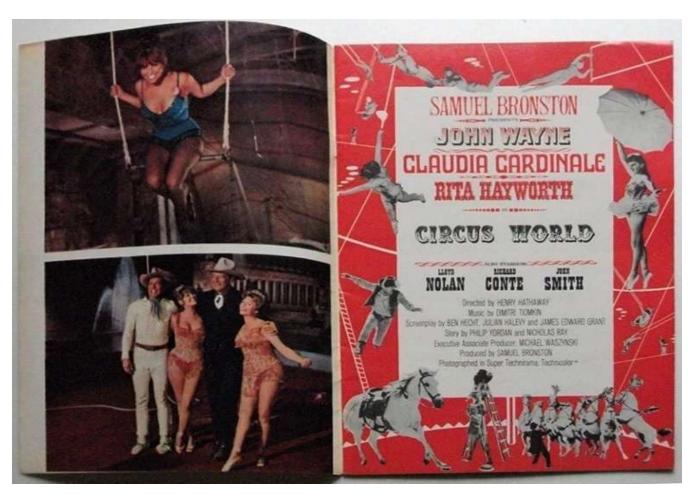


Premiere advert dated 27.12.1963. "Mad World..." opening at "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル) Theatre on 28.12.1963 – advertised in "Cinerama" (シネラマ).

B.) "Circus World" (サーカスの世界) / USA, Spain / Technirama. World Premiere on 24.06.1964. Japan: Public Premiere at four theatres in Tokyo on 19.12.1964.



The souvenir brochure - front and back side.





Above: pages from the movie's souvenir brochure.



An announcement advert dated 26.11.1964 – advance ticket sales from 05.12.1964, opening on 19.12.1964. On the right an advert dated 03.01.1965.

"Circus World" opened at 4 (not Cinerama-branded) Tokyo venues on 19.12.1964: at the Shibuya (渋谷) "Pantheon"(パンテオン) Theatre, at the Shinjuku (新宿) "Milano-za"(ミラノ座) Theatre, at the "Marunouchi Toei Palace" (丸の内東映パラス), and at the "Asakusa Toei Palace" (浅草東映パラス).

Note: there is no Cinerama (シネラマ) logo in the adverts. So, the question comes up whether "Circus World" was ever screened "in Cinerama" in Japan – only in "Super Technirama 70".



"Circus World" (サーカスの世界) premiere advert dated 18.12.1964 – opening on following day (19.12.1964) at 4 Tokyo venues.

C.) "Mediterranean Holiday" (地中海の休日) / West Germany / MCS 70. World Premiere in Munich on 19.12.1962. Japan: Public Premiere at "Theatre Tokyo", and at Osaka's "OS Theatre" in 70mm Cinerama (シネラマ) on 01.05.1965. Previously, both theatres had screened 3-strip films. The movie's German title is: "Flying Clipper – Traumreise unter weißen Segeln".

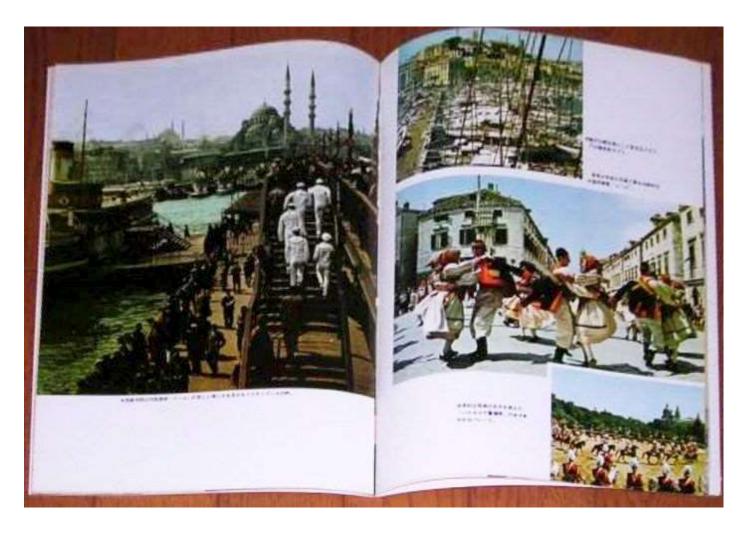
This travelogue is the first German 70mm (MCS70) feature-length film production.

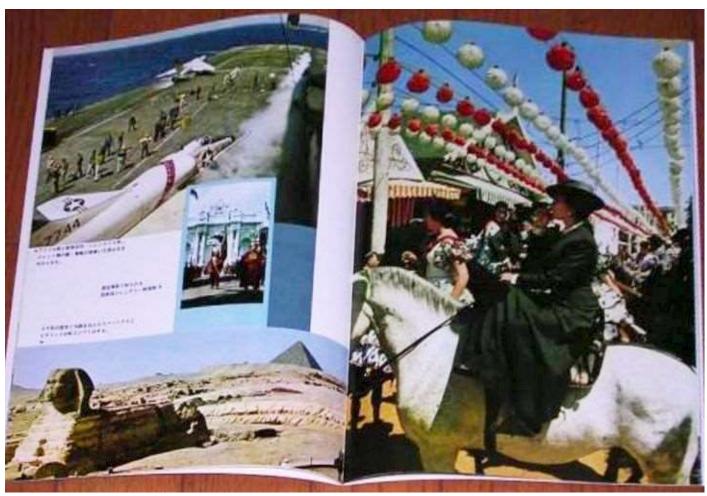
HOLIDA

A flyer of the movie – the travelogue at "Theatre Tokyo"(テアトル東) and at Osaka's "OS Theatre"(OS 劇場). On the right the souvenir brochure.



A vintage "Mediterranean Holiday"(地中海の休日) advance ticket (前売券) from the Cinerama "Asahi Kaikan" (朝日会館) Theatre located in Fukuoka (福岡).





Above: pages from the movie's souvenir brochure.



A large announcement advert dated 28.04.1965 / (よいお席は前売で!)
Good seats are in pre-sale! / (シネラマ _{提供} 最新作) The latest work offered in Cinerama / (大公開) Public opening on 01.05.1965.



On the left another (previous) announcement advert dated 17.04.1965 (opening in May), and on the right the movie's premiere advert dated 30.04.1965: tomorrow (01.05.1965) opening of "Mediterranean Holiday" (地中海の休日) at "Theatre Tokyo".



A 45rpm single record with excerpts of Ritz Ortolani's score.

D.) "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (偉大な生涯の物語) / USA / Ultra Panavision 70. World Premiere on 15.02.1965. Japan: Public Premiere at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京), and at Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) on 04.09.1965.



The souvenir brochure.



"The Greatest Story Ever Told" (偉大な生涯の物語) – a small poster of the movie.



An announcement advert dated 20.08.1965 – premiere on 04.09.1965, and on the right an advertising flyer of the movie.



An advert dated 27.08.1965. "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (偉大な生涯の物語)
Japan premiere at "Theatre Tokyo" on 04.09.1965 – (特別大公開) Special Big Opening.



An announcement advert – the film's opening at Osaka's "OS Theatre"(OS 劇場) on 04.09.1965.



"The Greatest Story Ever Told" – a "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) ticket dated September 1965 (Shōwa 40). The month of the movie's premiere.



An announcement advert dated 25.03.1972 – a second run of the movie at "Theatre Tokyo" from 08.04.1972. On the right an advert dated 07.04.1972 – the film's opening on following day (08.04.1972). It ran there until 12.05.1972.

E.) "The Hallelujah Trail" (ビックトレイル) / USA / Ultra Panavision 70. World Premiere on 23.06.1965. Japan: Public Premiere at Tokyo's "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル) Theatre in Cinerama on 23.10.1965.



The souvenir brochure – the artwork gives an impression of the action emerging from a Cinerama screen in 3-D!



An advertising flyer of the movie. "The Hallelujah Trail" premiere at the "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル) Theatre in Cinerama (シネラマ) on 23.10.1965, and on the right the premiere advert dated 22.10.1965 – "tomorrow premiere".



Another souvenir brochure, and on the right an advert dated 31.03.1966 about further screenings (in 70mm, no mention of Cinerama advertising) at Tokyo's "Shibuya Tokyu" (渋谷東急) and "Shinjuku Piccadilly" (新宿ピカデリー) Theatres – opening on 09.04.1966.



A small advertising poster of "The Hallelujah Trail" (ビッグトレイル), and on the right a flyer about the film – shown at Tokyo's "Shochiku Central"(松竹セントラル) Theatre.





A full-page advertising of the movie in "Movie Marketing" (12th Anniversary Issue, dated July 1965), and on the right an announcement advert dated 24.12.1965.

The film at Nagoya's Cinerama (シネラマ) "Nagoya Theatre" (テアトル名古屋) with the information: (明25日新装開館,世界最新のウルトラシネラマ方式) "tomorrow, on 25th, reopening with the world's latest Cinerama system".

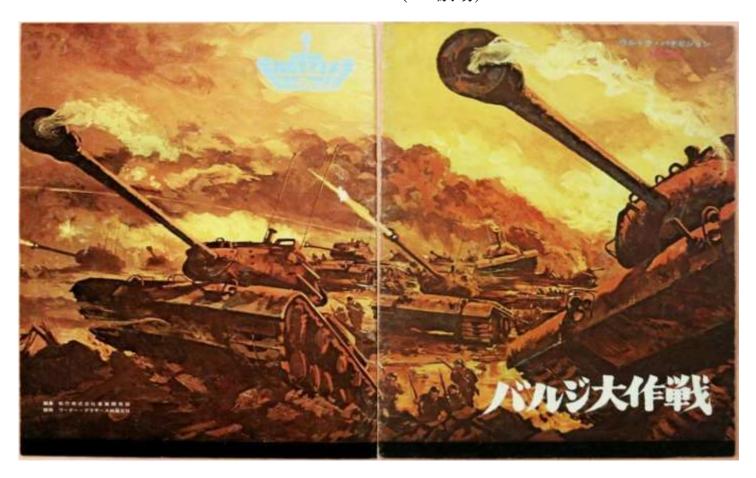
At the time, in Nagoya, there existed two Cinerama theatres. The other was the "Chunichi Cinerama Theatre" (中日シネラマ劇場).

More information on this venue you can read in PDF – "3-Strip Films in Japan" available on the introductory web page "Bigger than `Ben-Hur´ – My Japan Cinerama Project".



(シネラマ名古屋指定席御観覧券) "Cinerama Nagoya ticket with seat allocation" – dated 08.12.1982 (Shōwa 57).

F.) "Battle of the Bulge" (バルジ大作戦) / USA / Ultra Panavision 70. World Premiere on 16.12.1965. Japan: Public Premiere at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京), and at Osaka's "OS-Theatre" (OS 劇場) on 01.04.1966.



The souvenir brochure – on the right the front page.





Above: pages from the movie's souvenir brochure.



Premiere advert dated 31.03.1966. Tomorrow (01.04.1966) opening of "Battle of the Bulge" (バルジ大作戦) at "Theatre Tokyo", and on the right an advert dated 22.07.1966.



A "Battle of the Bulge" ticket from "Theatre Tokyo" dated 26.04.1966 (Shōwa 41).



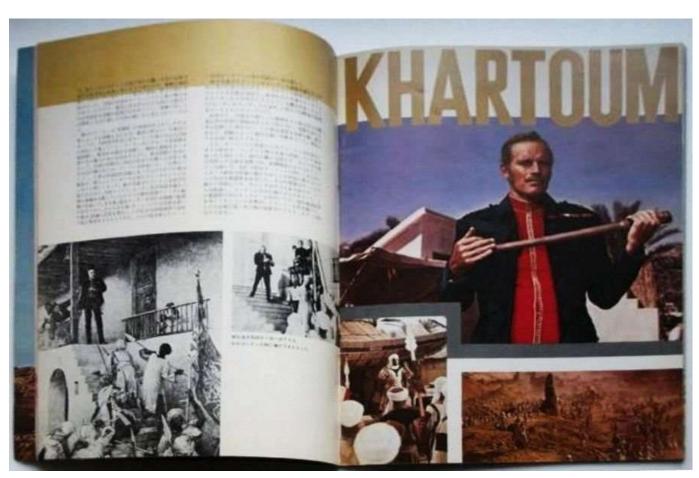
An advertising leaflet "Battle of the Bulge" (バルジ大作戦)
– opening at Osaka´s "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) on 01.04.1966.

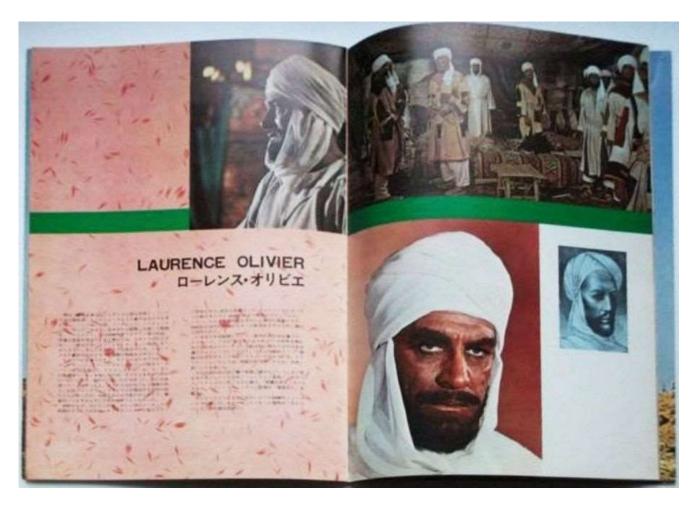


G.) "Khartoum" (カーツーム) / UK / Ultra Panavision 70. World Premiere on 09.06.1966. Japan: Public Premiere at "Theatre Tokyo"(テアトル東京) on 28.10.1966, and most likely also at Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) on this date.



The souvenir brochure – front and back side.





Above: pages from the movie's souvenir brochure.



Premiere advert dated 27.10.1966. "Khartoum" (カーツーム) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) on following day (28.10.1966).





A full-page announcement advert dated 22.10.1966 – (前売盛況!) Well advance sales! Opening on 28.10.1966, and on the right an advert dated 19.11.1966.



An impressive Japanese poster of the movie.

H.) "Grand Prix" (グラン・プリ) / USA / Super Panavision 70. World Premiere on 21.12.1966. Japan: Public Premiere at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京), and at Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) on 01.02.1967.



James Garner in a racing car on the old banked section at the "Autodromo Nazionale di Monza" (no longer in operation) near Milan in the Cinerama Super Panavision 70mm film, and on the right an advertising of the movie in a brochure.



A large newspaper advert (run on 20.10.1966) prematurely announcing the Japanese premiere of "Grand Prix" in Cinerama at Tokyo's "Yuraku-za" (有楽座) Theatre on 21.12.1966 – it's the same date of the movie's World Premiere at New York's "Warner Cinerama Theatre". Roadshow screenings for the public then from 22.12.1966.

At the time, the movie's opening had first been announced (see advert – also advertised in "Cinerama") at Tokyo's revered "Yuraku-za" (有楽座) Theatre [located in the Hibiya district (ヒビヤ/日比谷) – a part of the Chiyoda-ku (千代田区) ward in Tokyo] on 21.12.1966. But this had been cancelled, and the Japan premiere of "Grand Prix" finally took place at "Theatre Tokyo" on 01.02.1967. Maybe it once had been planned to install a deeply curved Cinerama screen into the "Yuraku-za", which then did not work out – this venue was never Cinerama-branded. At the "Yuraku-za" Theatre premiered Japan's very first two 70mm film productions, namely: "Buddha" (釈迦) on 01.11.1961 and "The Great Wall" (秦・始皇帝) on 01.11.1962. (More information on this subject are available at this report's end)



Announcement adverts dated 09.01.1967 and 13.01.1967 – advance ticket sales from 14.01.1967. "Grand Prix" premiere at "Theatre Tokyo" on 01.02.1967.



Above: a large premiere advert dated 31.01.1967. Tomorrow (01.02.1967) opening of "Grand Prix" (グラン・プリ) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京).



A leaflet: "Grand Prix" at "Theatre Tokyo" and at Osaka's "OS Theatre" from 01.02.1967 – with inserted "OS Theatre" ticket dated 02.02.1967 (Shōwa 42).





An announcement advert dated 07.06.1972. A rerun of "Grand Prix" (グラン・プリ) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) from 17.06.1972 (advance ticket sales from 08.06.1972).

On the right a flyer announcing the movie's second run.

Public opening (大公開) on 17.06. The movie was shown until 14.07.1972.

I.) "Custer of the West" (カスター将軍) / UK, France, Spain, USA / Technirama. World Premiere on 09.11.1967.

Japan: Public Premiere at 3 Cinerama Tokyo theatres on 24.02.1968.



The souvenir brochure – on the right the front page.



● 超大型映画時代にそなえ新シネラマ3大劇場誕生! NEW FOR A SUPER LARGE MOVIE ERA – NOW 3 BIG CINERAMA THEATRES!

Above: a large announcement advert dated 01.02.1968. (前売開始) Advance ticket sales from 07.02.1968. (日本公闇決定) Public opening in Japan on 24.02.1968.

Now three Tokyo 70mm Cinerama Theatres with deeply curved (maybe also louvered) screens. At the time, there even existed a fourth 70mm Cinerama venue in Tokyo, namely the "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) with its louvered screen. The Japan premiere of "Custer of the West" (カスター将軍) simultaneously took place (advertised in Cinerama) at following three venues on 24.02.1968:

"Pantheon" (パンテオン), located in Tokyo's ward Shibuya (渋谷) – with more than 1000 seats. It opened on 01.12.1956 with the VistaVision movie "The Vagabond King" [(放浪の王者), USA, 1956] – closed forever on 30.06.2003.

See: http://www.cinema-st.com/road/r021.html

"Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル), located in Tokyo's ward Chūō-ku (中央区) – with more than 1000 seats. It opened on 15.09.1956 with the VistaVision movie "The Mountain" [(山), USA, 1956] – closed forever on 11.02.1999.

"Milano-za" (ミラノ座), located in Tokyo's ward Shinjuku (新宿) – with more than 1000 seats. It opened on 01.12.1956 – also with the VistaVision movie "The Vagabond King" [(放浪の王者), USA, 1956] – closed forever on 31.12.2014.

Watch on YouTube a clip about the venue's closure: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3xOibdUOBk

(新宿ミラノ座より愛をこめて) From Shinjuku "Milano-za" with love (LAST SHOW)



An opening advert (dated 21.11.1956) of the two venues "Pantheon" and "Milano-za" with the movie "The Vagabond King", and on the right an opening advert (dated 01.09.1956) of the venue "Shochiku Central" with the movie "The Mountain".



A small "Custer of the West" advertising poster.



A 45rpm single record with short excerpts of Bernardo Segall's score, and on the right the premiere advert dated 23.02.1968 – opening tomorrow (24.02.1968) at 3 venues.

J.) "2001: A Space Odyssey" (2001年宇宙の旅) / UK, USA / Super Panavision 70. World Premiere on 02.04.1968. Japan: Public Premiere at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京), and at Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) on 11.04.1968.



A large announcement advert dated 21.03.1968. Opening on 11.04.1968, advance ticket sales from tomorrow (22.03.1968).



The movie's festive Japan premiere at the decorated "Theatre Tokyo"(テアトル東京). (Image courtesy of David Coles)



A large premiere advert dated 10.04.1968. "2001: A Space Odyssey" (2001年宇宙の旅) opens tomorrow (11.04.1968) at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京). (特別披露公開) Special Roadshow Opening.



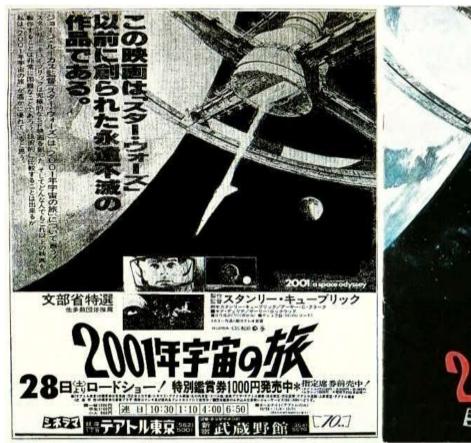
A "Theatre Tokyo" advertising flyer from the time of the movie's Tokyo premiere, and on the right an announcement advert of the movie's premiere at Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) on 11.04.1968.



A "2001: A Space Odyssey" ticket from Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) dated 29.06.1968 (Shōwa 43). (指定席御観覧券) Ticket with seat allocation.



Announcement adverts. On the right dated 21.02.1969 – advance ticket sales from 22.02.1969. The original season of "2001: A Space Odyssey" at "Theatre Tokyo" had concluded on 19.09.1968. After a revival run of "Ben-Hur" (advertised in Cinerama), and a first run of the 70mm Cinerama film "Ice Station Zebra" (from 21.12.1968), the Kubrick film was brought back to this venue for the first of several encore appearances from 01.03.1969.





An advert dated 20.10.1978. From 28.10.1978 a further rerun at "Theatre Tokyo" – also with the sale of a newly designed souvenir brochure (see right). The other venue given in the advert is Tokyo's Shinjuku (新宿) "Musashino-kan" (武蔵野館) Theatre.







Above: pages from the movie's souvenir brochure.

K.) "Ice Station Zebra" (北極の基地・潜航大作戦) / USA / Super Panavision 70. World Premiere on 23.10.1968. Japan: Public Premiere at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) on 21.12.1968, and most likely also at Osaka's "OS Theatre" (OS 劇場) on this date.



The film's souvenir brochure with two different covers. Note on the left the reference to the "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) and Osaka's (OS 劇場) Theatre.



An ''Ice Station Zebra'' (北極の基地・潜航大作戦) ticket from ''Theatre Tokyo'' dated January 1969 (Shōwa 44).



A large announcement advert dated 06.12.1968. Advance ticket sales from tomorrow (07.12.1968). Premiere of "Ice Station Zebra" at "Theatre Tokyo" (テアトル東京) on 21.12.1968 – (特別大公開) Special Big Opening.



... further announcement adverts left dated 12.12.1968, and on the right dated 17.12.1968.



A "Theatre Tokyo" flyer about the movie (opening on 21.12.1968), and on the right the movie's poster.

L.) "Krakatoa: East of Java" (ジャワの東) / USA / Super Panavision 70, Todd AO. World Premiere at Tokyo's Shibuya (渋谷) "Pantheon"(パンテオン) Theatre on Thursday, 09.01.1969.

Two days later, additional Tokyo openings took then place at the two 70mm Cinerama venues "Milano-za" (ミラノ座), and "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル) on Saturday, 11.01.1969 – the same as had been for the movie "Custer of the West".

An extract from the book "Movie Roadshows" written by Kim R. Holston:

"The world premiere of the 148-minute saga "**Krakatoa**" was scheduled for 19 December 1968 in Tokyo at three theatres. This unusual opening at an overseas venue was due to the fact that Tokyo had three theatres suitable for showing Cinerama films while New York had only one – the Cinerama.

(Author's note: it was the Warner Cinerama Theatre. At the time, New York's second Cinerama venue, Loew's Cinerama aka Loew's Capitol Theatre, was then closed and later demolished. As already reported there even existed at this point of time a fourth Cinerama theatre in Tokyo, namely the revered "Theatre Tokyo".)

The Tokyo premiere actually took place on 9th January at the "Pantheon Theatre". The stars Maximilian Schell and Barbara Werle were along with Cinerama executives, diplomatic corps members, business folk and entertainment industry people."



Cinerama President William R. Forman introduced Barbara Werle and Maximillian Schell, stars of **"Krakatoa: East of Java"**, at a press conference preceding the opening of the color spectacular at the Shibuya (渋谷) "Pantheon"(パンテオン) Theatre.

(Image from "Movie / TV Marketing" dated February 1969)

CLERATA KRAKATOA EAST OF JAVA

The souvenir brochure – front and back side.



An announcement advert dated 12.12.1968. Public opening of "Krakatoa: East of Java" at three theatres: at the "Milano-za" (ミラノ座), at the "Pantheon" (パンテオン) and at the "Shochiku Central" (松竹セントラル). (特別公開決定) Special decision: opening on 11.01.1969.



Another "Krakatoa: East of Java" (ジャワの東) announcement advert. Opening on 11.01.1969, (前売開始) advance ticket sales from 28.12.1968.

A short article written in "New York VARIETY" dated 29.01.1969:

- Krakatoa in Paris -

"CRC's (author's note: Cinerama Releasing Corporation) "**Krakatoa: East of Java**", which opened in three hardtops in Tokyo two weeks ago, will receive another triple house premiere when it has its European opening in Paris this Friday (31.01.1969). With Joseph Wohl (CRC's Vice President in charge of foreign distribution) in attendance, the film will open at the "Gaumont", at the "Empire" and at the "Kinopanorama" theatres in the French capital.

"**Krakatoa**" will bow in U.S. sometime in March."

(Author's note: it opened at the "Cinerama Dome" in Los Angeles on 14.05.1969)

M.) "Song of Norway" (ソング・オブ・ノルウェー) / USA / Super Panavision 70. World Premiere on 04.11.1970. Japan: Public Premiere at Tokyo´s Hibiya (日比谷) Scala (スカラ座) Theatre on 19.06.1971.



"Song of Norway" souvenir brochure, and on the right a large announcement advert (without Cinerama logo) dated 10.06.1971. Advance ticket sales from tomorrow (11.06.1971), premiere on 19.06.1971. It's a movie that, despite having all the ingredients of a Cinerama release, was shown everywhere - except the UK - as a flat 70mm title.

An interesting article on this subject written in "New York VARIETY" dated 04.11.1970:

- ABC "Norway" not in Cinerama Process on U.S. Openings –

"ABC's (author's note: American Broadcasting Company) "**Song of Norway**" is being distributed by Cinerama Releasing Corporation (CRC), and will be shown at the Cinerama theatres in New York and Los Angeles, but it is not going to be projected in the Cinerama process in the US. In London, however, it is being advertised and shown as a "Cinerama" attraction.

According to sources at Cinerama releasing, the name "Cinerama" is still capable of adding coin at the box-office, and the experience of the company's own "**Krakatoa**" is offered as an example. But ABC and Cinerama sales people presumably decided to get the best domestic "**Norway**" bookings they could get, regardless of Cinerama projection equipment; and then the decision was made to go straight 70mm around the country.

Some years back, the Cinerama process abandoned most of its three-dimensional features and became something barely distinguishable from standard 70mm. Nonetheless, some producers, particularly MGM, continued to pay for the name and use the curved-screen projection process, on the grounds that it would attract more business. Indeed, for such attractions as "Grand Prix" and "2001: A Space Odyssey" it would seem to have done just that.

Apart from Cinerama's own product, however, the past few years have seen not a single "Cinerama" film – and now even the copyright owner isn't bothering to use the process for its major roadshow attraction."



"Song of Norway" – a flyer from Tokyo's Hibiya "Scala"(スカラ座) Theatre.

"Song of Norway" was screened in Germany with an original English 70mm print at Karlsruhe's "Schauburg Cinerama Theater" at the 4th "Todd AO" 70mm Film Festival in 2008. More information here: http://www.in70mm.com/schauburg/festival/2008/index.htm

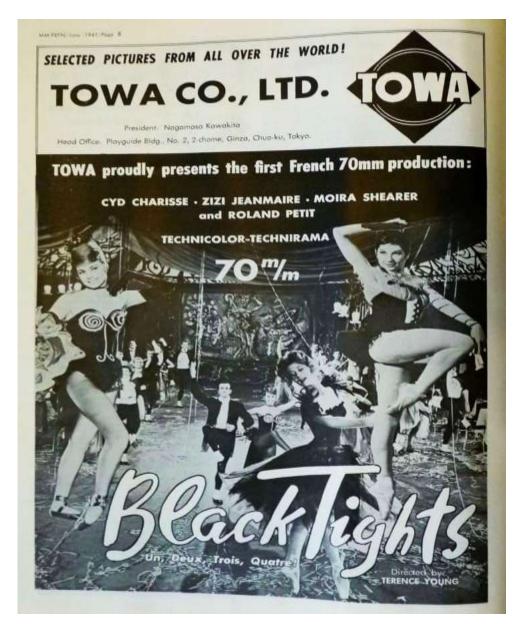
This had also been the very first screening of "Song of Norway" in Germany.



"Cinerama's Russian Adventure" [(シネラマ、ロシアの冒険), USSR / USA, 1966)], the movie's world premiere took place in 3-strip Cinerama at "McVickers" Theatre in Chicago (IIIinois) on 29.03.1966, was not screened in Japan. Perhaps this is because the 1962 Tokyo season of "Two Hours in USSR" (a film with similar content) had been considered a box-office failure.

At the Report's End some Bonus Information

... about the Technirama films **"Black Tights"** [(ブラック・タイツ), France, Portugal,1961], and Japan's very first two 70mm productions **"Buddha"** [(釈迦), 1961] – at the time the most costly Asian film production of all time – and **"The Great Wall"** [(秦・始皇帝), 1962]. Both films were shot with VistaVision cameras.

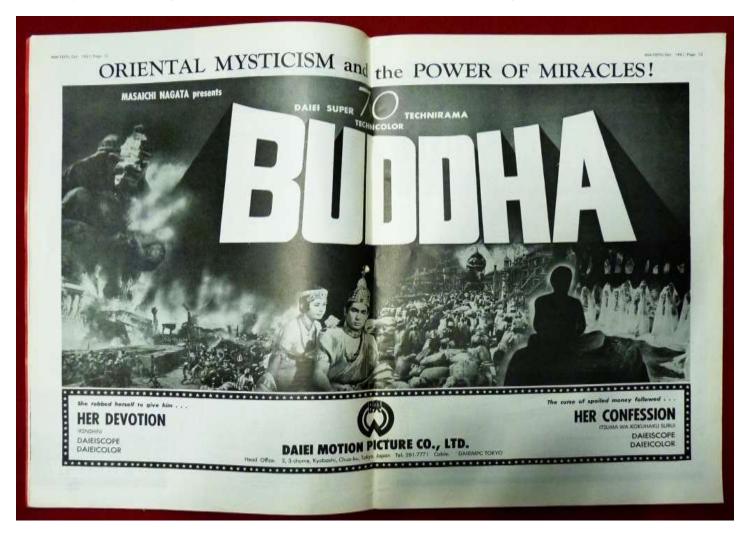


A full-page advert from "Movie Marketing – Far East Film News" dated June 1961.



An announcement advert dated 12.06.1961. Japan premiere on 24.06.1961 (advance ticket sales from 13.06.1961), and on the right the premiere advert dated 23.06.1961.

The first French 70mm production "Black Tights" (ブラック・タイツ) – aka "1-2-3-4 ou Les Collants noirs" – director Terence Young, filmed in Technirama, premiered in Japan in 70mm at Tokyo's "Yuraku-za" (有楽座) Theatre on 24.06.1961. The movie shows 4 ballets: Cyrano de Bergerac / The Devourer of Diamonds / Mourning in 24 Hours / Carmen.



From "Movie Marketing – Far East Film News" dated October 1961.

An article written in "New York VARIETY" dated 18.10.1961: - Daiei Winds Filming Of \$1,500,000 "Buddha" -

"Tokyo, 03 October 1961 – Daiei completed the shooting of its blockbuster (\$1,500,000) **"Life of Buddha"** after 154 lensing days, and has shipped the footage to Technicolor in London for processing (Japan has no facilities for processing 70mm film). Director Kenji Misumi will follow the film to London for supervision. Picture is set to bow here on November 1st. No overseas deal has yet been made."



Filipino actress Charito Solis (1935 – 1998) shows the winning smile that captured the lead in Daiei's 70mm epic **"Buddha"** as she arrived at Tokyo International Airport on May 10, 1961. The actress worked for LVN* in Philippines (one of the biggest film studios in the history of Philippine cinema), garnering three top actress awards in country's annual FAMAS (Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences) awards. The film's producer was Masaichi Nagata (1906 – 1985).

Images and information from "Far East Film News".

* LVN Pictures was founded by the De Leon ["L"], Villonco ["V"] and Navoa ["N"] families in 1938.



Another advert from "Far East Film News", and on the right a poster of the movie.



全世界の注目を浴びて念々待望の大公開!

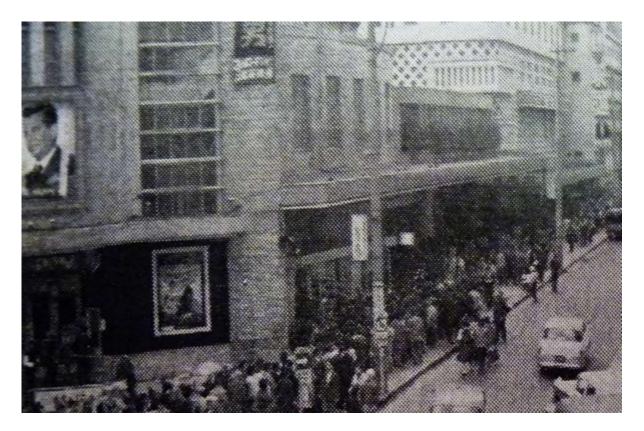
The long-awaited release that pays attention to the whole world!

Premiere advert dated 31.10.1961 – premiere of Japan's very first 70mm production ''釈迦'' (**Buddha**) at Tokyo's "Yuraku-za"(有楽座) Theatre on following day (01.11.1961).

Filmed in "Daiei Super 70 Technirama" and in (驚天然色) amazing true color.



From the movie's opening credits.



Biggest one-theatre opening week in Japan film history was registered by Daiei's "Buddha", controversial 70mm (Nippon's first) spectacle in color, opening at Toho's "Yuraku-za" Theatre (1,725 seats) in Tokyo on 1st November 1961 to 8,272 admissions and ¥ 2,051,208. The film played 16 performances in the first week (2-a-day plus one extra on Sunday, and one holiday during stanza) for grand score of ¥ 14,195,682 and 53,233 admissions. (Image and information from "Movie Marketing – Far East Film News")

An article written in "New York VARIETY" dated 21.02.1962:

- "Buddha" In Record 80-Day Run In Tokyo –

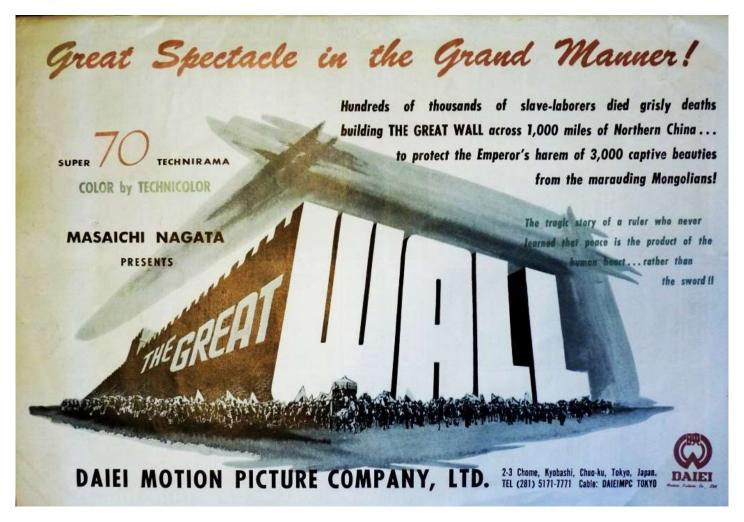
"Tokyo, 13 February 1962 – Daiei's controversial 70mm epic **"Buddha"** shattered a number of box office records while racking up over \$279,000 gross during 80-day road-showing at this city's Yuraku-za Theatre. Although six Asian nations had protested through Foreign Minister that film be snipped because of fictional rape scene and subsequent suicide of Princess Yasodhara, wife of Buddha-to-be, Daiei president and producer stubbornly held his ground with argument that film was correct in spirit.

Japan's most expensive picture, costing about \$1,500,000, became a tourist attraction here, drawing heavily on patronage from rural visitors. Influence of Buddha and vigorous advance sales were other factors in addition to interest stimulated by the heavily reported controversy. Admissions for showing were upped to a top of \$2.22.

Foreign film reporters watched the success of "**Buddha**" with dismay because it was repeatedly held over in a house usually given over to imports. Yuraku-za topped foreign film houses at the wickets during 1961. Daiei hopes 10,000,000 people will pay \$8,333,000 to see the film in Japan and looks to earn more from its export."



An "釈迦" (Buddha) advert dated 01.01.1962 – with special announcement of Daiei's second 70mm film "秦·始皇帝" (Shin no Shikôtei) / "Qin – Shǐ Huáng dì" (Qin – the first Emperor). The movie's English title is: "The Great Wall". On the right a poster of the movie.



"The Great Wall" – Daiei's second "Super 70 Technirama" film production. A full-page advert from the trade magazine "Movie Marketing" dated July 1962.

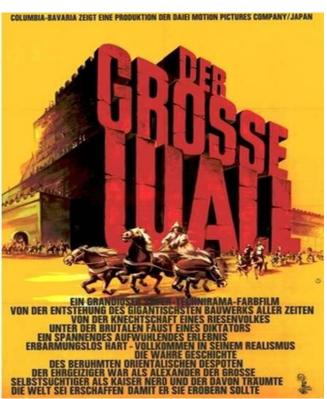


Premiere advert dated 31.10.1962. The public premiere of Japan's second 70mm production "秦•始皇帝" ["Qin – Shǐ Huáng dì" (Qin – the first Emperor)], director Shigeo Tanaka, took place at Tokyo's "Yuraku-za" (有楽座) Theatre on 01.11.1962. Emperor "Qín Shǐ Huáng dì" (秦始皇帝) was founder of the "Qin dynasty" – the first dynasty of the Chinese Empire.

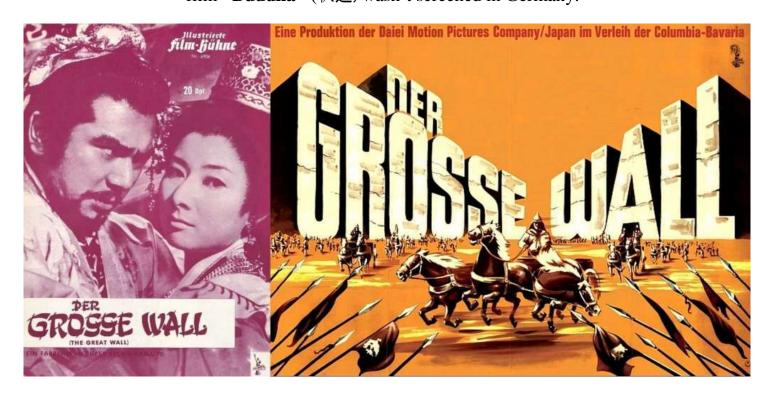


A (1962) DAIEI (大映) information pamphlet, and on the right a leaflet about the movie. (大映創立20周年記念映画) Anniversary Film – 20 Years Daiei Film.





"The Great Wall" (秦 · 始皇帝) even ran in West Germany with a 70mm print in a shortened version. Advert (with missing 70mm information) dated 27.08.1964 – opening of "Der große Wall" (The Great Wall) at Hamburg's "Cinerama Grindel-Filmtheater" on 28.08.1964. "A great moral portrait about ancient China with a star cast from Japan". On the right the movie's German poster. Japan's very first "Daiei Super 70 Technirama" film "Buddha" (釈迦) wasn't screened in Germany.



The German program "Illustrierte Film-Bühne" (No. 6906, 4 pages) of **"The Great Wall"**– a color film in Super Technirama 70, and on the right another German poster. **"Der große Wall"** (The Great Wall) – a production of the `Daiei Motion Pictures Company´ (Japan), distributed by the Columbia-Bavaria.

"The Great Wall" (Der große Wall) was also screened with an original German 70mm print at Karlsruhe's "Schauburg Cinerama Theater" at the 8th "Todd AO" 70mm Film Festival in 2012.

See: http://www.in70mm.com/schauburg/festival/2012/program/de/index.htm



The Japanese souvenir brochures of "Buddha" (釈迦) and "The Great Wall" (秦·始皇帝).

Both with the inscription of Tokyo´s "Yuraku-za" (有楽座) Theatre
that was located in Tokyo´s ward "Chiyoda-ku" (千代田区).

END

Written by Gerhard Witte, Berlin (Germany), 2018, with kind support from David Coles, Sydney (Australia).

All the images and information for this article are taken from diverse vintage trade magazines, especially from the trade magazines "Far East Film News", "Movie Marketing", "Movie / TV Marketing", from Japanese newspapers of that time, and, of course, also from the internet — especially from Japan's `Yahoo Auctions' (ヤフオク).

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