

October 7, 1954

## Mount 50G 'Okla.' Set On MGM Stage

Set costing \$50,000—one of the largest ever built—has been constructed for Rodgers-Hammerstein's "Oklahoma" on Stage 15 at Metro.

Virtually every inch of stage's 180x300 feet dimension will be taken up by set consisting of a complete ranch unit, house, stables, corral, etc., which will be backed by a painted backdrop measuring 500 feet long and 40 feet high.

Designed by Oliver Smith, 30 studio technicians spent three weeks building set.

October 8, 1954

## Sign James Mitchell For 'Okla.' Ballet

James Mitchell has been inked for male dance lead opposite Bambi Linn in dream ballet sequence of "Oklahoma," Rodgers-Hammerstein musical being shot in Todd-AO and CinemaScope.

Mitchell recently wound straight dramatic role in Metro's "The Prodigal."

October 12, 1954

William C. Mellor has been signed by Rodgers & Hammerstein to replace flu-stricken Robert Surtees as head cameraman on "Oklahoma" for duration of the latter's illness.

And the "Oklahoma" schedule will be revamped — Charlotte Greenwood and Shirley Jones are flu victims . . . Never rains but: Barbara Lawrence completed "Oklahoma," is set to leave for B'way and confabs for "Put Them All Together" and has two Four-★ calls

October 13, 1954

"OKLAHOMA" IS EXPECTED to play between 40 and 50 theatres in the U.S. in its Todd-AO version before it is released in standard, wide-screen form, according to Michael Todd.

Todd left yesterday for Europe to seek a second property for Todd-AO production and to set distribution on his first indie pic, "Around the World in 80 Days."

October 17, 1954

.. Fred Zinnemann today starts the "All Er Nuthin'" number for Rodgers-Hammerstein's "Oklahoma" at Metro. with Gloria Grahame and Gene Nelson featured. Number will be eighth filmed for musical.

October 26, 1954

## AO's O'Brien Here

Dr. Brian O'Brien, veepee of the American Optical Co. and chief designer of the Todd-AO camera, has arrived for huddles with Rodgers & Hammerstein on progress of "Oklahoma" now in production under the direction of Fred Zinnemann.

October 27, 1954

And Gene Nelson gets an estimate on a haircut today. Hasn't had one since "Oklahoma" started . . . Incidentally, those who've seen five reels of cut film on the Rodgers-Hammerstein pic are raving about it.

**SHORTAGE OF RAW STOCK** of 65m Todd-AO has forced director Fred Zinnemann to revise his shooting habits on the Rodgers & Hammerstein production of "Oklahoma." Pic is being filmed in two processes, Todd-AO and CinemaScope, and Zinnemann had always shot the Todd-AO version first. But now he uses the CinemaScope camera till the actors "get" their scenes for the plentiful 35m film. Then, when the scarce Todd-AO film is being used, many scenes, thanks to having just been done in CinemaScope, can be shot in one take.

October 28, 1954

Rodgers & Hammerstein toss "completion of the book" party for their "Oklahoma" cast and crew at Metro tonight . . .