

September 22, 1956

Now and then a day passes without Mike Todd adding another guest star to the cast of "Around the World In 80 Days."

HAIR TROUBLE HAS HIT the Michael Todd production of "Around the World In 80 Days" as scenes are being filmed at Durango, Colorado, this week. The local white residents are reluctant to grow beards and the local Indians are equally reluctant to shave their heads for scenes in the Todd-AO production.

September 30, 1955

September 28, 1955

Give 'World' Lead To Shirley MacLaine

Shirley MacLaine has been signed for the femme lead in Michael Todd's "Around the World in 80 Days" and goes before the location cameras at Durango, Colo., this morning. The Todd-AO film, which Michael Anderson is directing, has David Niven, Cantinflas and Robert Newton in top male spots.

Miss MacLaine, earlier this week, was signed by Paramount to star in an as-yet-undetermined film during 1956. She film-debuted in Alfred Hitchcock's "The Trouble With Harry" and subsequently appeared in Hal Wallis' "Artists and Models," both unreleased Paramount productions.

ANOTHER CUE TO NEW PIX BIZ

Opening of "Oklahoma" on Broadway Oct. 12 — with its preem here a few weeks later — will undoubtedly cue the public and the pix biz to a new type of film entertainment more closely related to the live stage. Cinerama set the pattern for giant screen audience participation, while Todd-AO refined it and made it applicable to telling a straight story as well as screening travelogues and thrill shots.

The word is out on "Oklahoma." Everybody who has seen it concedes it's great. Even though it is not the type of production that fully utilizes the values of the giant screen, "Oklahoma" spells showmanship and boxoffice.

Yesterday, while visiting on the Metro lot, we wandered onto Stage 2, the Todd-AO screening room. It was dark; some film was being screened, obviously rushes. We sat down, unnoticed for a time. The film constituted takes from Mike Todd's "Around the World In 80 days." We watched about two reels before being hustled out.

Nobody could say from these rushes what the final story quality will be, but one thing was obvious. Besides an all-star cast, Todd's getting tremendous showmanship values into "80 Days" — bullfight, chase and panoramic scenes — photographed magnificently in the 65m process.

Scho.

Mike Todd's now a member of the Screen Directors' Guild. Fred Zinnemann and Otto Preminger sponsored him

NBC and Colgate will take the Hollywood Bowl Oct. 16 for the "Oklahoma" tieup and salute to Rodgers and Hammerstein. It's that BIG.

Joins Cast of '80'

John Carradine has been signed by Michael Todd for a role in "Around the World in 80 Days" and joins the cast in Durango, Colo., today for Todd-AO filming on location there under direction of Michael Anderson.

Todd, meantime, has named Bill White as casting director on film.

Jules Verne, if his ghost is still hanging around, will be startled when he beholds Mike Todd's version of "Around the World in 80 Days."

SMPTE To Be Briefed On Todd-AO Technique

New York, Sept. 29.—American Optical veep Dr. Brian O'Brien will disclose Todd-AO basic fundamentals at the SMPTE conclave Oct. 4.

More than 50 papers will be delivered, including Arthur L. Smith's report on new participation-type theatre being constructed in Williamsburg, Va. Non-commercial venture is designed to allow a high degree of audience participation.

NY Rivoli Installing 12G Curtain for 'Okla.'

New York, Sept. 29. — The Rivoli Theatre's facelifting for the "Oklahoma" roadshowing will include a 90-by-40 \$12,000 curtain with Sooner state motifs. Over-all \$35,000 renovation job leaves house 1,650 seating capacity.

A new booth has been built to demonstrate Todd-AO equipment to exhibs in the mornings, but actual projection will be from the old booth. Rivoli picture will measure 50-by-25, but the screen is actually 63 feet wide with 13 foot center curvature.

Shirley MacLaine's threatening to pull out of her role in "Around the World in 80 Days" if she's asked to play it with an English accent