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THE TODD-AO CORPORATION

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TODD-AO

NEW YORK

December 18, 1957

HOLLYWOOD

Mr. George J. Schaefer, President
The Todd-AO Corporation
1270 Sixth Avenue - Suite 2414
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

At your request, certain information has been compiled regarding two competitive wide-screen systems; namely, Cinemiracle and Technorama. The technical information contained herein has been obtained from sources other than the companies involved.

CINEMIRACLE

Cinemiracle was demonstrated recently to the Press on the West Coast and, as you know, received acclaim from the critics; however, Todd-AO offers advantages, both from an economical and operational standpoint. Cinemiracle requires the use, on production, of three 35mm cameras, operated from a single base; one camera shooting straight forward, the other two at approximately forty-five degrees with forty-five degree angle mirrors.

At present, it is our understanding that they have no sound blimp and are confronted with looping the entire picture. Each of the three cameras pulls down six perforations per exposure, running at twenty-six frames per second which means that the negative consumption would be one hundred and forty-six feet per minute per camera or a total of four hundred and thirty-eight feet per minute for the three operating simultaneously.

Their system uses three matched 37mm lenses, one mounted on each camera. All shots are limited to the usage of this particular lens group. Dolly-ins to closeups present a problem. Their main problem, at the moment, is the necessity of shooting a SECOND VERSION if a single strip 35mm residual is to be obtained. Unlike Todd-AO, where a 35mm can be readily reduced from the 65mm negative, Cinemiracle photographs three separate sections simultaneously. Consequently, any one section will only contain one-third of the entire information.

To my knowledge, no satisfactory combining of the three strips to single strip has yet been accomplished.

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There is also no record of any matte or process shots having been made.

TECHNORAMA

Technorama uses 35mm stock, running horizontally through one camera at the rate of one hundred and eighty feet per minute pulling eight perforations per exposure. The lens system utilizes the anamorphic principle with a 1.5 anamorphosing. It was originally designed for reduction to 35mm, four perforation, to improve definition and reduce grain size; however, we know that Technicolor and Warner Brothers have been experimenting with printing the Technorama, eight perforation, optically onto 70mm release color positive. This can be done satisfactorily; however a ten per cent blow-up of the negative is required to achieve the duplication of the Todd-AO system; consequently, the optical printing is not as satisfactory as contact printing and slows up the release printing operation.

Technorama has a complement of three lenses, focal lengths of 50mm and 75mm, plus one telephoto lens of undetermined focal length. It might be said, in connection with this system, that once again, close-ups would be limited due to the use of the anamorphic lens.

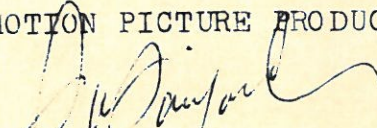
Another serious problem that Technorama faces is the photographing of miniature shots which, because of the reduced scale, require high speed cameras, normally operative up to at least four times normal speed, depending upon the scale of the miniature. When their basic speed is one hundred and eighty feet per minute, it can be readily understood that four times one hundred and eighty (seven hundred and twenty feet per minute) would be a very difficult speed to attain, mechanically, and the probability of getting one scene without a serious buckle would be remote.

If any further information is desired, please advise.

Kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION DIVISION


S. A. Sanford

SAS:mt

cc: L. Douglas Netter, Jr.