

THE INTERNATIONAL  
**CINERAMA**  
SOCIETY

15 Dysteleg Road • Disley, Cheshire SK12 2BQ • Tel: 0663 76 2672.

NEWSLETTER NO: 12.

OLD THREE-EYES IS BACK.



*Kinopanorama Camera and Crew at Circular Quay, Sydney. November 4 1993.*

*Copyright: Fifth Continent Music Classics.*

What a great headline with which to start this newsletter! In Australia, tests have recently been satisfactorily completed for a new 3-Strip production which, hopefully, will be exhibited in Bradford, later in the year. More details below.

It is six months since the last news letter and, at the time of writing, **THIS IS CINERAMA** is showing twice weekly at **THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM AND TELEVISION**. I know that several members were disappointed to discover that, during August and early September, exhibition had been temporarily suspended due to print damage. After several delays caused by the rapidly deteriorating condition of the master negative, the long awaited new print arrived from Cinerama Inc. though, regrettably, the interpanel colour balance leaves a lot to be desired. At least Cinerama is back, 21 years after it's demise. The new print is on the virtually indestructible Estar base and, theoretically, should remain useable for many years. For those of us lucky enough to have seen the original Technicolor print loaned by John Harvey, the colours in the new print are muted and prove what a loss to the Cinema was the abandonment of the Technicolor IB process.

During October, the Museum organised a WideScreen Festival using 70mm prints whenever possible. As part of this event, there were three performances of **2001-A SPACE ODYSSEY**, *in CINERAMA*. These were completely sold out, with enthusiasts travelling from all over Europe to see this unique event. The print, especially imported from the USA, had seen better days and gave the projection staff considerable problems but all who saw the show agreed that it was fantastic to see this movie again, *as it was meant to be seen*, 25 years after it was last shown in Cinerama.

It had been hoped to present PATTON-A LUST FOR GLORY on the Cinerama Screen as well but the 70mm print obtained was unprojectable and a 35mm monaural `Scope copy had to be substituted at the last minute. [This was, of course, shown on the flat screen].

This rather spoiled the planned last night of the festival when 2001 and PATTON were due to be shown in consecutive performances. I know of many enthusiasts who had travelled long distances for this event. Incidentally, 2001-A SPACE ODYSSEY has also been revived recently at the Pacific Dome Cinerama Theatre in Los Angeles.

The last shot for HOW THE WEST WAS WON was taken on May 16th, 1962. Almost exactly 31 years later, a 3-strip camera rolled again to shoot tests for a new production, the brain child of John Lasher of Fifth Continent Movie Classics, based in Sydney, Australia. Originally John had planned to shoot his production in Cinerama but following difficulties in obtaining the use of one of the original Cinerama Cameras, he attempted to trace the last CineMiracle camera which was known to have still been in existence in 1988. Despair loomed when John discovered that it had since been dismantled and converted into 3 separate VistaVision cameras. At this time, in desperation, John even investigated the possibility of building a brand new 3-strip camera.

*Then came the a moment of pure inspiration.*

Did the Russian 3-strip Kinopanorama cameras still exist? Kinopanorama was the Russian version of the Cinerama process, the cameras for the Kinopanorama process being more highly developed than those of Cinerama which had not changed since 1954. He made some enquiries and the answer was YES!, the cameras did still exist. With John's initiative and backing, one of these was obtained and fully restored and in early September, a 3-strip camera rolled, taking test shots of Moscow.

Externally it appears to be an orthodox motion picture camera but, internally, it is unique. As in Cinerama, the triple lenses are mounted in a common lens block but in the Kinopanorama camera the three 35mm negative films lie side by side, advanced by a common mechanism through a triple gate. The gate contains indexing marks that identify not only the panels but also the merge lines for projection.

After successfully passing its initial tests, the camera, together with it's Russian restorers, were flown to Sydney, Australia, where on November 3rd, the first shots for a 20 minute demonstration film, working title "KINOPANORAMA: FROM MOSCOW WITH LOVE", were taken. Sequences already completed include a high speed run through scenic Hawkesbury with the camera mounted on the front of a train and a voyage around Sydney's famous waterfront aboard the sailing ship H.M.S BOUNTY. This is the full size replica built for the Mel Gibson movie of the classic tale of mutiny in the South Seas. Directors of Photography are Sergey Rozhkov [Moscow] and John McClean [Australia]. Now a top D.O.P., John McClean was the Clapper/Loader on the Australian sequences for CINERAMA'S SOUTH SEAS ADVENTURE. The new film will have full 7 track stereophonic sound digitally recorded and mastered. Fifth Continent Movie Classics, the production company, hope to launch the movie, working title KINOPANORAMA; FROM MOSCOW WITH LOVE, with special screenings in Australia in mid 1994 and it is hoped to run it subsequently in Bradford. Plans exist for a more ambitious production promoting Sydney's successful bid for the 2000 Olympic Games. Sorry America but until someone is willing to finance the installation of a 3-strip theatre, you miss out.

The Cinerama Theatre Directory should be available by the Autumn. This lists all known Cinerama 3-strip and 70mm installations together with details of their opening and closing dates. Additionally it includes all CineMiracle venues and D-150 houses. As the I.C.S. has no income as such, we will have to make a charge for this to defray production costs. Several members have asked if the I.C.S. would consider producing a definitive history of CINERAMA based on our unique, extensive archives and the researches of David Coles and his International Cinerama Research Institute. Though plans are still at a formative stage, we have more than enough material for a book and maybe, in the foreseeable future, we can produce a full history of the fabulous Cinerama process.

Finally, watch your local CD stores for Cinerama reissues. Original Soundtrack reissue CDs of both THIS IS CINERAMA and CINERAMA SOUTH SEAS ADVENTURE should now be available. Additionally a New York Company is planning to record a THIS IS CINERAMA suite for inclusion in a forthcoming Film Music CD.

Copyright. I.C.S. February 1994.