



WIDESCREEN WEEKEND

The Widescreen Weekend welcomes all those fans of large format and widescreen films – CinemaScope, VistaVision, 70mm, Cinerama and Imax – and presents an array of past classics from the vaults of the National Media Museum. A weekend to wallow in the best of cinema.



HOW THE WEST WAS WON

*Saturday 17 March
Pictureville Cinema
Dirs. Henry Hathaway, John Ford, George Marshall USA 1962
162 mins (U)
Debbie Reynolds, Henry Fonda, James Stewart, Gregory Peck,
Carroll Baker, John Wayne, Richard Widmark, George Peppard*

There are westerns and then there are WESTERNS. How the West was Won is something very special on the deep curved Cinerama screen with 7-track stereo sound. Thanks to generous contributions from many of the film's fans, we have been able to keep this excellent print going to present the best 3-strip Cinerama film ever made. A hit at the Widescreen Weekend year after year, we just can't let this classic movie lie dormant. Bringing together three of the best Hollywood western directors, How the West was Won tells the story of the development of the West from a portrait of an 1830s pioneer family to the carnage of the American Civil War. The panoramic scenes across the three panels of the full curved screen are spectacular and the lift from Alfred Newman's extraordinary score is exhilarating. Cinerama is the only way to see the film; everything else pales by comparison.

How the West was Won is presented in a superbly well-preserved, vintage 3-strip print with a 7-channel stereo soundtrack.
Print source: NMPFT Archives

NEW TODD-AO PRINT

THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES

*or How I Flew from London to Paris in 25 hours 11 minutes
(70mm)
Sunday 18 March
Pictureville Cinema
Dir. Ken Annakin GB 1965 133 mins (U)
Stuart Whitman, Sarah Miles, James Fox, Alberto Sordi, Robert Morley, Gert Fröbe, Jean-Pierre Cassel, Irina Demick, Eric Sykes, Red Skelton, Terry-Thomas, Benny Hill, Yûjirô Ishihara, Flora Robson, Karl Michael Vogler, Sam Wanamaker, Eric Barker, Maurice Denham, Fred Emney, Gordon Jackson*

This is a film that created a genre, leading to It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World, the Smokey and the Bandit series and the Wacky Races to name just three imitators. It's 1910 and the world is suddenly getting smaller. A newspaper baron sponsors a London to Paris air race and unleashes upon the world a wild range of aspiring but mad pilots all determined (by fair means or foul) to be the first to complete the flight in bizarre machines that may fly, but probably not for long. With a gem of a performance from Terry-Thomas, and cameos from Tony Hancock and Benny Hill, the humour is as strong as the mayhem. Surely time for a new print of this comedy classic. Director/co-writer Ken Annakin was a special guest at the 6th Bradford Film Festival in 2000.

Print source: 20th Century Fox
Special thanks to Schawn Belston

MAYERLING (70mm)

*Monday 19 March
Pictureville Cinema
Dir. Terence Young France/GB 1968 140 mins (PG)
Omar Sharif, Catherine Deneuve, James Mason, Ava Gardner,
James Robertson Justice, Geneviève Page*

It is the last days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The world is changing, and Archduke Rudolph (Sharif), the young son of Emperor Franz-Josef (Mason) finds himself desperately looking for a purpose. Depressed and powerless, he falls in love with the married Baroness Vetsera (Deneuve) and causes a royal scandal. After Dr Zhivago, Omar Sharif was a hot property and again is in an Eastern European role in this stunningly beautiful film shot by Henri Alekan. Director Terence Young also helmed another of this year's WW offerings, Black Tights.

Print source: NMPFT Archives

BLACK TIGHTS (70mm)

*Sunday 18 March Pictureville Cinema
Dir. Terence Young France 1960 130 mins (PG)
Zizi Jeanmaire, Cyd Charisse, Roland Petit, Moira Shearer,
Maurice Chevalier*

A very rare screening of this 70mm title from 1960. Before going on to direct Bond films (see our UK premiere of the new digital print of From Russia with Love), Terence Young delivered this French ballet film. Maurice Chevalier introduces four ballets performed by Roland Petit's Les Ballets de Champs Elysees, and the dance routines are always impressively delivered by stars such as Cyd Charisse, Moira Shearer and Zizi Jeanmaire. With beautiful studio sets and a simple story, it's the dance that counts.
Print source: NMPFT Archives



NEW TODD-AO PRINT

CLEOPATRA (70mm)

Friday 16 March

Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Joseph L. Mankiewicz GB/USA/Switzerland 1963 243 mins (PG)

Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Rex Harrison, Pamela Brown, George Cole, Hume Cronyn, Cesare Danova, Kenneth Haigh, Andrew Keir, Martin Landau, Roddy McDowell, Robert Stephens, Francesca Annis, Martin Benson, John Cairney, Michael Hordern, Marne Maitland, Richard O'Sullivan, Gwen Watford, Douglas Wilmer

A magnificent spectacle with a majestic, multitudinous cast, Cleopatra is arguably the biggest, brashiest, most sprawling historical epic in modern movie history. Famously begun by Rouben Mamoulian and then shelved due to the illness of star Elizabeth Taylor, the film was re-started with a different director (Joe Mankiewicz) and a new cast that saw Richard Burton replace Keith Baxter and Rex Harrison take over from Peter Finch. The resulting motion picture is one of the all-time costume extravaganzas – a gigantic, OTT slice of Hollywoodery with the added sparkle of witnessing the Taylor/Burton dalliance explode into a full-blown love affair. Based on Carlo Mario Franzero's biography, Cleopatra is more than just a lavish blockbuster; it is an example of runaway filmmaking at its most uncontrolled.

Print source: 20th Century Fox
Special thanks to Schawn Belston

SHALAKO (70mm)

+ Euan Lloyd (producer) in person

Sunday 18 March

Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Edward Dmytryk GB/Germany 1968 113 mins (PG)

Sean Connery, Brigitte Bardot, Stephen Boyd, Jack Hawkins, Peter van Eyck, Honor Blackman, Woody Strode, Eric Sykes, Alexander Knox, Valerie French

Hardened Indian fighter Shalako finds himself embroiled in a new kind of conflict when Apaches attack a hunting party of effete European aristocrats. A star-studded adaptation of the Louis L'Amour novel, Shalako marked Sean Connery's only appearance in a western. It also hinted at the style of Euan Lloyd's future productions: big stars, big style and overflowing with action. There are some genuinely savage moments in Shalako, thus lending the film a level of credibility that was missing from other films of the period. Legend has it that Lloyd hocked his wife's fur coat to help raise funding for his debut as producer.

We are delighted to welcome Euan Lloyd back to the Festival to discuss the making of Shalako – his first project as an independent producer.

Print source: Canal Plus/NMPFT Archives
Special thanks to John Herron

TITANIC (70mm)

Saturday 17 March

Pictureville Cinema

Dir. James Cameron USA 1997 193 mins (12)

Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane, Kathy Bates, Frances Fisher, Gloria Stuart, Bill Paxton, Bernard Hill, David Warner, Victor Garber, Jonathan Hyde, Suzy Amis

Ten years on from its American release and by far the biggest film of all time, Titanic is still one of the best reasons this year to go to the movies, especially with the enhancement of the digital sound experience in Pictureville Cinema and the inadequacies of the film's video version. James Cameron's epic was nominated for 14 Oscars and won 11 including best picture, best director and best cinematography. It deserved them all, though the stand-out performance by Gloria Stuart, as the aged heroine of 1912, was overlooked. She was 87 at the time of her nomination; now 97, she still makes the occasional appearance in movies.

Print source: 20th Century Fox

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE (70mm)

Friday 16 March

Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Steven Spielberg USA 1989 127 mins (PG)

Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Denholm Elliott, Alison Doody, John Rhys-Davies, Julian Glover, Michael Byrne

Steven Spielberg pulled off a stroke of genius by casting Sean Connery as Indiana Jones's crusty old dad. Connery steals the film – a tough call when the plotline has Indy criss-crossing the globe in search of the Holy Grail. Arguably the best of the series, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade combines Arthurian myth with the 1930s Nazi milieu that made the first film so atmospheric. There is genuine chemistry between the two leads, Denholm Elliott supplies the comedy and Alison Doody makes for a suitably icy femme fatale. It is the setpieces, though, that remain in the memory: an aerial escape from a zeppelin, a white-knuckle tank chase and the final challenges of the film's last reel – "Only a penitent man will pass". Superb.





CASINO ROYALE



+ David Arnold (composer) in person

Thursday 15 March Pictureville
Cinema
Dir. Martin Campbell
USA/Germany/GB/Czech Republic
2006 144 mins (12A)
Daniel Craig, Eva Green, Mads
Mikkelsen, Judi Dench, Jeffrey Wright

Casino Royale brings the James Bond franchise back to life with a new lead and a new style. Back to basics and close to the original text of the first book in the series, *Casino Royale* is a breath of fresh air and that rare thing, a critical and audience hit. Daniel Craig proves his worth in the lead as Bond is on the trail of Le Chiffre whom he must defeat in a high stakes poker game at the Casino Royale in Montenegro. This is the nastier side of Bond, evident in the first film, and a thrilling piece of filmmaking. We are delighted to welcome David Arnold to introduce the film and talk about writing music for such a classic series in the footsteps of John Barry.
Print source: Sony Releasing

THIS IS CINERAMA (3-Strip Cinerama)

Friday 16 March
Pictureville Cinema
Dirs. Merian C. Cooper, Michael Todd, Fred Rickey USA
1952 120 mins (U)

This is Cinerama attracts devotees and the curious alike, not least writer Bill Bryson who described the experience in *Notes from a Small Island* as 'amongst the most enjoyable three hours of my life'. Showing on three projectors in Pictureville Cinema, the world's only Cinerama theatre, the film still offers a giddy, white-knuckle ride, and is about as fun a piece of Americana as you are ever likely to see. This is the original Cinerama feature which launched the widescreen era, here presented in the original three-strip format with seven-track stereo sound. There is no narrative, merely a variety of 'attractions': the famous rollercoaster ride is followed by a series of musical and travelogue episodes culminating in an aerial tour of America. More than a technological curio, it's a document of its era.
Print source: NMPFT Archives

CINEMA THEATRES ASSOCIATION with Richard Gray

Saturday 17 March, 3.15pm
Pictureville Cinema

Following 2005's introduction to the work of The Projected Picture Trust by Dion Hanson, we are delighted to welcome Richard Gray to talk about the work of the Cinema Theatre Association. The CTA was set up in 1967 by journalist Eric George, who wished to see more attention paid to the magnificent movie palaces of the 1920s and '30s, which were then starting to disappear from Britain's towns and cities. Since then the CTA has widened its horizons to encompass the study of all cinema buildings, live theatres, music halls and those entertainment centres now used for bingo or other purposes. All aspects of cinemas and theatres are studied including architecture, decoration, film projection and stage facilities. Consideration is given to their study in terms of the history of entertainment, social history, industrial archaeology and architectural history.

CINERAMA ADVENTURE With an introduction by David Strohmaier

Saturday 17 March
Pictureville Cinema
Dir. David Strohmaier USA 2001 100 mins (adv U)
With: Carroll Baker, Debbie Reynolds, Russ Tamblyn, Eli Wallach

A labour of love and dedication, Dave Strohmaier's documentary tells the extraordinary story of Cinerama through the eyes of those involved in developing the process. From the development of the system to Cinerama's finest achievement *How the West Was Won*, this is the finest tribute to one of cinema's greatest technical achievements. Complete with newly re-printed elements, *Cinerama Adventure* is a must for all those who have ever seen and wondered at the 3-projector magnificence that is Cinerama.
Print source: David Strohmaier

KEEPERS OF THE FRAME With an introduction by Randy Gitsch

Sunday 18 March
Cubby Broccoli Cinema
Dir. Mark McLaughlin USA 1999 70 mins (adv U)
With: Alan Alda, Stan Brakhage, Roddy McDowell,
Debbie Reynolds

Keepers of the Frame was the first filmed documentary to examine in-depth the history, science and struggles of those committed to film preservation. It witnesses artists and technicians passionately preserving our filmed heritage. Their story is an adventure, rife with discoveries of lost treasures.
Print source: Randy Gitsch

CINERAMACANA

Sunday 18 March, 10am
Pictureville Cinema

One of the most popular events of the Widescreen Weekend and a great way to wake up on a Sunday morning, *Cinramacana* brings together all those little bits and pieces that lie around in people's cupboards or on dusty shelves in archives and seldom see the light of a projector. Over the years there have been some magical discoveries and nobody knows what will be shown until the event itself. Even then there is the occasional surprise.

And there will just be time for the traditional photograph on stage of all the WW delegates.

