

# WIDESCREEN WEEKEND

The Widescreen Weekend continues to welcome 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 nostalgic best of cinema.

**Widescreen Passes £70 / £45**

**Available from the box office 0870 70 10 200**

**Patrons should note that tickets for *2001: A Space Odyssey* are priced at £10 or £7.50 concessions**



61. *2001: A Space Odyssey*

62. *The Great Escape*

63. *Blade Runner*

## THIS IS CINERAMA

**Friday 7 March**

*Dir. Merian C. Cooper, Michael Todd, Fred Rickey*  
USA 1952 120 mins (U)

The first 3-strip film made. This is the original *Cinerama* feature which launched the widescreen era, and is about as fun a piece of Americana as you are ever likely to see. More than a technological curio, it's a document of its era.

## HAMLET (70mm)

**Sunday 9 March**

*Dir. Kenneth Branagh*  
GB/USA 1996 242 mins (PG)  
*Kenneth Branagh, Julie Christie, Derek Jacobi, Kate Winslet, Judi Dench, Charlton Heston*

Anyone who has seen this *Hamlet* in 70mm knows there is no better-looking version in colour. The greatest of Kenneth Branagh's many achievements so far, he boldly presents the full text of *Hamlet* with an amazing cast of actors.

## STAR! (70mm)

**Saturday 8 March**

*Dir. Robert Wise*  
USA 1968 174 mins (U)  
*Julie Andrews, Daniel Massey, Richard Crenna, Jenny Agutter*  
Robert Wise followed his box office hits *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music* with *Star!* Julie Andrews returned to the screen as Gertrude Lawrence and the film charts her rise from the music hall to Broadway stardom. *Star!* is a spectacular compendium of the best of 20th century popular music as well as an excellent rags-to-riches story.

## THE BIGGER PICTURE: A HISTORY OF CINEMA EXHIBITION With Tony Sloman

**Saturday 8 March**

Regular WSW guest Tony Sloman, a member of the Academy of the Widescreen Weekend, gives an introduction to the history of cinema.

## WINDJAMMER

**Saturday 8 March**

*Dir. Louis de Rochemont III*  
Norway/USA 1958 120 mins (U)  
The 50th anniversary of the release of this film shot in Cinemiracle. Widescreen fans love it. It's a great cultural experience as a group of cadets on a training exercise take the SS Christian Radich from Oslo, across the Atlantic and on to New York. Featuring great and much sought-after music.

### UK PREMIERE

## THE SAND PEBBLES

**Saturday 8 March**

*Dir. Robert Wise*  
USA 1966 196 mins (PG)  
*Steve McQueen, Richard Attenborough, Richard Crenna, Candice Bergen, Mako*  
In between *The Sound of Music* and *Star!*, Robert Wise delivered a classic war epic set in 1920s China. *The Sand Pebbles* boasts an Oscar-nominated performance by Steve McQueen's as engineer Jake Holman, who upsets the status quo on board the US gunboat San Pablo. Remastered digitally at the highest resolution, this new print receives its UK premiere.

### UK DIGITAL PREMIERE

## THE GREAT ESCAPE

**Friday 7 March**

*Dir. John Sturges*  
USA 1963 172 mins (PG)  
*Steve McQueen, James Garner, Richard Attenborough, James Donald, Charles Bronson*  
An immediate classic on its release, this timeless tale of courage in adversity remains notable for the emergence of Steve McQueen as a bonafide movie star. Based in part on Paul Brickhill's book on the mass escape from a German prison camp during WWII, the film goes off into flights of Hollywood fancy as McQueen heads for the Swiss border on a stole German motorcycle. But it's the sheer verve and machismo that drives the story forward.

## CINERAMACANA

**Sunday 9 March**

One of the most popular events of the Widescreen Weekend and a great way to wake up on a Sunday morning. *Cineramacana* brings together all those little bits and pieces that lie around in people's cupboards or on dusty shelves in archives and which seldom see the light of a projector.

## HONEYMOON

**Sunday 9 March**

*Dir. Michael Powell*  
GB/Spain 1959 105 mins (adv U)  
*Anthony Steel, Ludmilla Tchérina, Antonio, Léonide Massine*  
A newly married couple honeymoon in Spain. Recently restored by Charles Doble with funds from the Martin Scorsese Foundation, this is not only a rare Michael Powell film but also a rare widescreen classic, filmed in ARC 120.

## CINEMATIC SOUND FORMATS

### With Dion Hanson

**Friday 7 March**

A special presentation by engineer and cinema technology historian Dion Hanson, who takes us on a sound journey through the history of cinema. Dion previously worked for Dolby Laboratories and was chairman of the Projected Picture Trust.

## 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (70mm)

**Friday 7 March**

*Dir. Stanley Kubrick*  
GB/US 1968 141 mins (U)  
*Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester, Leonard Rossiter*  
A film deserving of the description "ground-breaking", Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* remains one of the all-time classics of science-fiction cinema. It is presented during WSW in its original Cinerama format in a restored 70mm print with six-track magnetic stereo sound on the curved Pictureville screen.

## BLADE RUNNER: THE FINAL CUT

**Sunday 9 March**

*Dir. Ridley Scott*  
USA 2007 117 mins (15)  
*Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, M. Emmet Walsh, Sean Young*  
A quarter of a century after its release, *Blade Runner* receives its third and ultimate edit by director Ridley Scott. A seminal classic of the genre. Screening in digital.

## 70mm DOUBLE BILL: EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

**Monday 10 March**

*Dir. Tim Burton*  
USA 1990 105 mins (PG)  
*Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder*  
An elderly inventor creates Edward, a living being, but dies before he can complete the hands. Edward is left alone – but with a dazzling array of knives and scissors at the ends of his arms. Peggy, the local Avon lady, finds him and brings him back to town. There he becomes a star at topiary and hairdressing. A very peculiar vision of small town America sees Tim Burton at his imaginative best. Edward is one of cinema's great sympathetic characters.

## + BRAINSTORM

*Dir. Douglas Trumbull*  
USA 1983 106 mins (15)  
*Christopher Walken, Natalie Wood*  
With a machine that can put you into someone else's experiences then this could be a great fun experience or learning device. But the military can also see some great potential. Partly shot in 70mm, this is a great ride and action movie from Douglas Trumbull, the man responsible for the effects in Kubrick's *2001*.

## THE MAKING OF HOW THE WEST WAS WON

**Saturday 8 March**

Behind the scenes with Dave Strohmaier as he reveals more from the Cinerama archive.