

# WIDESCREEN WEEKEND

Pictureville Cinema, 1993. *This is Cinerama* – the greatest widescreen experience – was reborn. The first Widescreen Festival took place in October that year and began to create international waves amongst the widescreen cognoscenti. But this was soon replaced with the Bradford Film Festival and by 1996 widescreen had found a new niche with its own weekend and the glorious resurrection of *How the West Was Won* in 3-strip Cinerama.

This was a trigger to bring to the Festival a fantastic wealth of knowledge held by widescreen fans all over the world: those people who year-on-year feed ideas into the programme. With their support the Widescreen Weekend has gone from a small group of the curious to an international gathering of the many who still believe that cinema is about the great vision, the big image and dynamic sound; the spectacle and the imagination, the sweep of human emotion and experience writ large. The Weekend sets out to celebrate the great filmmakers of a classic era, the cinematographers and the technicians... and the stars who made us watch in wonder.

This year we recognise one of the great practitioners who passed away 20 years ago, Sir David Lean. Thanks to the David Lean Foundation we are able to see three of his classics as he wanted them to be seen. We welcome filmmakers Joe Dunton and Stanley Long, and the great fan and critic Sir Christopher Frayling to talk about the western and widescreen. **Bill Lawrence**

## Widescreen Passes £90 / £70

Available from the box office 0844 856 3797



DERSU UZALA

## DANCE CRAZE (70mm)

Saturday 26 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Joe Massot GB 1981 50 mins (U)

Documentary with *Madness, The Specials, The Bodysnatchers*

A WSW premiere for this unusual documentary from the 1980s. When studios were running away from expensive 70mm productions Joe Dunton went back to Superscope to create Super 35 and blow up to 70mm as a cheap means of getting 70mm movies back in cinemas. For this experiment, he went to the-then, 2-Tone phenomenon, looking at bands like *Madness* and *The Specials*. "*Dance Craze* works well. Not only does Joe Dunton's photography make the movie look sumptuous, but the music catches the genre's brittle beat and loose-limbed spontaneity." – *Time Out*

Print source: Joe Dunton

Joe Dunton will be present to talk about the development of the film and its success in creating low cost 70mm.

## GOYA – OR THE HARD WAY TO ENLIGHTENMENT (70mm)

Friday 25 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Konrad Wolf East Germany 1971 136 mins (adv 15)

Donatas Banionis, Olivera Katarina, Fred Düren, Tatyana Lolova

This extremely rare screening of *Goya - or the Hard Way to Enlightenment* may well be its UK premiere. The director, Konrad Wolf, was well established in the East German film industry and enjoyed a murky past. With a very good slate of films he delivered *Goya* using DEFA 70 (one of only ten films made in the process), a 70mm process that was attached to the DEFA film studios. *Goya* is played by the great Lithuanian actor Donatas Banionis, famous as the lead in Tarkovsky's *Solaris*. The film shows Goya's struggles to establish himself against the background of the Spanish inquisition and power of the Catholic Church. Greatly influenced by Buñuel, Saura and Eisenstein, Wolf delivers a stunning and opulent portrait of the artist and his times. *Goya* was nominated for the Golden Prize at the 1971 Moscow International Film Festival.

Print source: François Carrin

## DERSU UZALA (70mm)

Friday 25 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Akira Kurosawa Soviet Union/Japan 1975 144 mins (U) Subtitles

Maksim Munzuk, Yuri Solomin, Svetlana Danilchenko, Dmitri Korshikov

*Dersu Uzala* is a film of extraordinary beauty and the first film that the great Japanese master made outside Japan. It is a tribute to the hostile beauty of Siberia – both its Lake Baikal and taiga forest – but it is also a tribute to humanity and comradeship. It centres on the relationship that develops between a Russian explorer and his local guide from a nomadic tribe. On an expedition in 1902 they meet and build a strong bond based on mutual respect. It is exquisitely composed and features some amazing action sequences – creating shelter on the frozen lake in a ferocious blizzard being one example. Although not part of the obvious canon of Kurosawa's films, *Dersu Uzala* is regarded by those who have seen it as one of their favourites. In this 70mm print, it will be seen to its best advantage rather than the limited cinema and TV screenings he had in the UK.

Print source: Ben Wales



## HOW THE WEST WAS WON (3-Strip)

Saturday 26 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Henry Hathaway, John Ford, George Marshall USA 1962 162 mins  
Debbie Reynolds, Henry Fonda, James Stewart, Gregory Peck, Carroll Baker, John Wayne, Richard Widmark and narrated by Spencer Tracy

Time once again to revisit the wonders of 3-strip Cinerama and *How the West Was Won*. With recent DVD and Blu-ray releases, and the digital recreation in 2009, we bring from the vaults, the vintage print, in Technicolor, from 1962, with new elements added. So, the longest version we have ever screened. Bringing together three of the best Hollywood western directors, *How the West Was Won* tells the story of a pioneering family from the 1830s to the Civil War. A remarkable cast of the Hollywood greats from James Stewart to Henry Fonda bring the west to life and celebrate the wonders of the United States. The panoramic scenes across the three panels and the full curved screen are spectacular. This is the only way to see the film.

Print source: NMeM Archive

This very special screening will be introduced by Professor Sir Christopher Frayling.

## OPERATION CROSSBOW (70mm)

Monday 28 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Michael Anderson GB 1965 115 mins (PG)

George Peppard, Sophia Loren, Trevor Howard, John Mills, Tom Courtenay, Richard Todd, Anthony Quayle, Sylvia Syms

A classic British war film of the sixties, *Operation Crossbow* is based on a screenplay from Michael Powell collaborator, Emeric Pressburger. A suspenseful drama, it is based upon true efforts by Churchill's government to find and destroy Germany's long-range V1 and V2 rockets. The film cleverly alternates between the German development activity and the British agents who are infiltrating the programme. Ambitiously filmed in Europe, *Operation Crossbow* was produced by Carlo Ponti who placed his wife, Sophia Loren into a small part of the film for added star value. But there is plenty of British talent on display as well as the effective Peppard in the lead. Director Michael (*The Dam Busters*) Anderson was at the helm for *Around the World in Eighty Days*, the second film shot in Todd-AO.

Print source: François Carrin

## THE GREAT RACE (70mm)

Monday 28 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Blake Edwards USA 1965 160 mins (U)

Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, Natalie Wood, Peter Falk, Keenan Wynn

Sadly, a vintage print of this classic, but nonetheless a chance to see the film with great sound and on the big screen, making its debut at the Widescreen Weekend, and a suitable tribute to the brilliant Blake Edwards who died in December. At a time when cinema was getting bigger and brasher, *The Great Race* was as big and brash as it got. With all shades of comedy, this is one of the funniest films of the '60s and arguably gave birth to *Wacky Races* and a million impressions. It's 1908 and car manufacturers enter a race from New York to Paris to show off their latest models. But there is more at stake than some car sales and dirty tricks abound. Edwards dedicated the film to Laurel and Hardy, the greatest comedy double act of all.

Print source: Swedish Film Institute



## THE HAUNTING

Friday 25 March, Cubby Broccoli Cinema

Dir. Robert Wise USA/GB 1963 102 mins (adv 18) b/w 35mm  
Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, Richard Johnson, Russ Tamblyn, Faye Compton, Rosalie Crutchley, Lois Maxwell, Valentine Dyall

Based on Shirley Jackson's novel *The Haunting of Hill House* and filmed in glorious black and white CinemaScope, this extraordinary film builds remorselessly to moments of real terror. The Haunting centres on Dr. Markway's team of psychic research investigators – including the sceptical Luke, the sensitive Eleanor and clairvoyant Theodora – who will spend the night in an evil old mansion. As darkness descends, the terror builds. Robert Wise was the editor-turned-director who perfected the representation of hidden horror in movies via the camera, design and sound. And of course the cast – including Claire Bloom as the mysterious and clairvoyant Theodora – play their parts brilliantly, too. The Haunting is arguably the best-ever movie of its type, superbly creepy and genuinely frightening.

Print source: BFI/Hollywood Classics

## CINERAMACANA PARTS 1 & 2

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 March, Pictureville Cinema

The unique element of the Widescreen Weekend, *Cineramacana* is now in its 14th year and has brought some remarkable short films and clips rarely seen outside their domestic cinemas or expos. The focus is always on widescreen and cinemas, and is full of surprises part-found and part-submitted by the audience. This year, due to time and space, we are breaking the programme into two parts: part one on the flat screen; part two, the curve. *Cineramacana* is becoming established on the web. Why not Google it and write a review? *Cineramacana* contains material from The John O'Leary Collection, donated by the Limerick Film Archive.

## SUSPIRIA

Sunday 27 March, Cubby Broccoli Cinema

Dir. Dario Argento Italy 1977 95 mins (18) 35mm

Jessica Harper, Stefania Casini, Udo Kier, Alida Valli, Joan Bennett

*Suspiria* is the stuff that nightmares are made of. A masterclass in disturbing atmosphere and sustained terror, many would argue this 1977 genre classic to be Italian maestro Dario Argento's masterpiece. American dancer Suzy Bannion (Jessica Harper) arrives in Germany to train at the renowned Freiberg ballet academy on the same night that one of the students is brutally murdered. Following a series of sinister events Suzy discovers that the academy is actually a front for a coven led by a centuries-old witch, kept alive by satanic rituals and black magic. An ear-poundingly terrifying soundtrack by Goblin (played at full volume on set to evoke suitably terrified performances from the cast), and Argento's use of rich colours and disturbing imagery, lead to a truly nightmarish experience. Presented in 4-track magnetic sound.

Print source: NMeM Archive



## THE DARK CRYSTAL (70mm)

Saturday 26 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dirs. Jim Henson, Frank Oz GB 1982 94 mins (PG)

Voices: Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Kathryn Mullen, Steve Whitmire

A millennium ago the dark crystal was damaged and chaos reigned. The evil Skeksis have taken over the world. Now two young Gelfling set out to defeat them. They have to replace a shard that has been taken from the dark crystal. Their journey brings them many adventures and the final showdown with the Skeksis. From Jim Henson's Muppet workshop but with greater depth and characterisation than previously tackled. A children's classic. "A dazzling technological and artistic achievement... could teach a lesson in morality to youngsters at the same time as entertaining their parents." - *Variety*

Print source: Universal Pictures

## STANLEY LONG + CIRCLORAMA

Sunday 27 March, Pictureville Cinema

We are delighted to welcome Stanley Long to the festival to talk about the widest widescreen cinema experience, Circlorama.

"Leonard Urry had set up Circlorama together with Leon Heppner, a Russian entrepreneur who had lived in London for several years. They acquired a bomb site in Denman Street just behind Piccadilly Circus and constructed a building to house the new 360 degree cinema which they had imported from Russia. It housed 11 screens which were arranged round the wall of the circular building. The diameter of the auditorium was 70ft and was served by 11 35mm Phillips water-cooled, pulse light projectors which were housed in an enclosed gallery." Stanley Long, in70mm.com. Find out more from the man himself.

## THE LION IN WINTER (70mm)

Sunday 27 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. Anthony Harvey GB 1968 134 mins (PG)

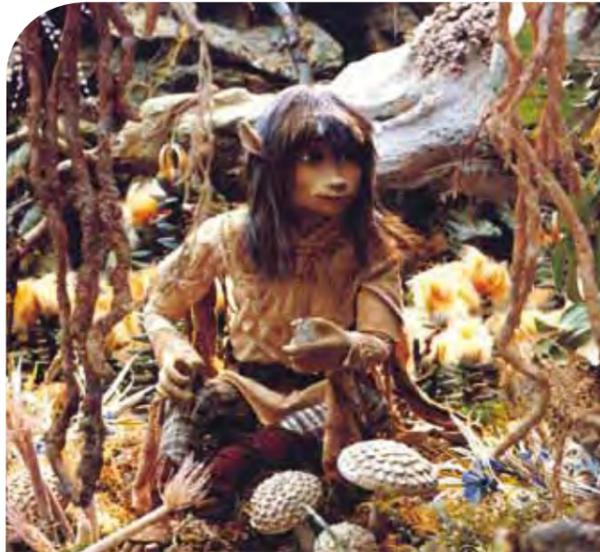
Peter O'Toole, Katharine Hepburn, Anthony Hopkins, Timothy Dalton

Based on the play by James Goldman, who also wrote the screenplay, *The Lion in Winter* focuses on the relationship between Henry II and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine. It is Christmas, 1183. King Henry is faced with the task of deciding who should succeed him. While he favours John, Eleanor favours Richard, the Lionheart. As the court manipulates and connives to influence the succession, Henry and Eleanor clash as two iron wills go against each other. With a cast working at the peak of their powers and with high energy, this is a smouldering classic that is seldom given the tribute of a 70mm screening. Arguably, the finest of the 1960s high-profile productions. Featuring an acclaimed Oscar-winning score by the late John Barry (1933-2011), to whom this screening is dedicated.

Print source: NMeM Archive

This Widescreen Weekend is dedicated to the memory of Howard Rust who sadly died as we were going to press. Howard was a great supporter of the Museum, a life-time fan of Cinerama, the first member of the Academy of the Widescreen Weekend, a ball of energy and a great guy. Much more fitting tributes will be made over the weekend.

THE DARK CRYSTAL



CIRCLORAMA



THE LION IN WINTER



## THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI

Friday 25 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. David Lean GB 1957 161 mins (PG) Digital

Alec Guinness, William Holden, Jack Hawkins, Sessue Hayakawa, James Donald, Geoffrey Horne, Andre Morell, Percy Herbert

While 35mm prints have deteriorated and 70mm prints have disappeared, we celebrate the talent of David Lean with this recent digital restoration. *The Bridge on the River Kwai* is one of THE great war films and, with a stellar cast, grips from beginning to end. Set during the Second World War in a Japanese camp, the prisoners of war are set to work on the Burma – Siam railway. The big project is to build a bridge over the river Kwai. While the mood of the prisoners is to delay the build and sabotage the railway, the British senior officer, Colonel Nicholson (Alec Guinness in Oscar-winning form), believes that it is a sign of British strength and moral superiority to build the best possible bridge. This brings him into conflict with his own men as well as an Allied mission that has been sent to blow up the bridge.

Print source: Park Circus Ltd

This very special screening will be introduced by Professor Sir Christopher Frayling.

## LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (70mm)

Saturday 26 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. David Lean GB 1962 222 mins with intermission (PG)

Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, Alec Guinness, Anthony Quinn

Arguably, David Lean's greatest film. The restoration not only brought back the original quality of the film but some scenes that Lean had been unable to keep in the original release. The result is a tribute to both Lean's direction and Freddie Young's photography, seen at its best in this 70mm print. Lawrence's life – his desert campaign, struggles against the British establishment and the forging of an Arab nation – is one of the great stories of the 20th century told by a filmmaker at the zenith of his powers.

Print source: Park Circus Ltd / Sony Pictures Releasing

## DOCTOR ZHIVAGO (70mm)

Sunday 27 March, Pictureville Cinema

Dir. David Lean GB 1965 197 mins with intermission (15)

Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Alec Guinness, Tom Courtenay, Rod Steiger

Based on the novel by Boris Pasternak, this film adaptation from a screenplay by Robert Bolt was a feast for lovers of great and romantic filmmaking. Remembered now for its magnificent set pieces (the battle on the ice) and music (Lara's theme), *Doctor Zhivago* was one of the most influential epics of the '60s inspiring a young Steven Spielberg, among others. Pasternak's novel of love and the Russian revolution is told with Lean's extraordinary vision and painterly eye for colour. Never was 70mm used more successfully.

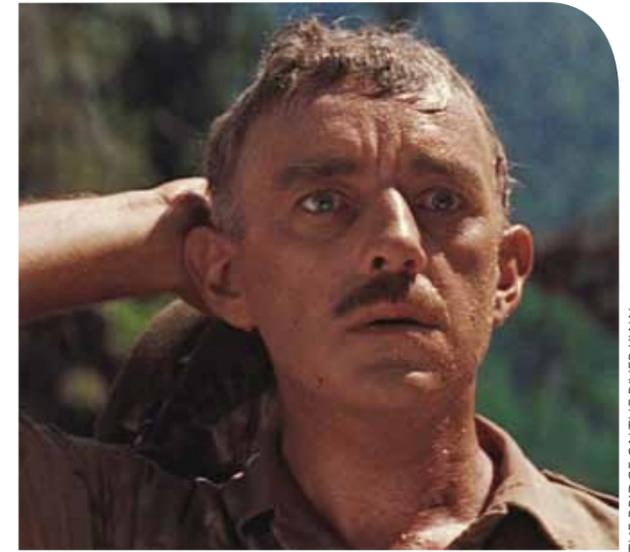
Print source: Hollywood Classics / Warner Bros. Pictures Intl. UK



THE  
DAVID LEAN  
FOUNDATION

We are grateful to the David Lean Foundation for its generous support towards this year's film festival.

THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI



DOCTOR ZHIVAGO

