

SOLOMON and SHEBA

IN THE SWEEPING WONDER OF
70
SUPER
TECHNIRAMA

THE STORY

Israel, unified under the rule of King David finds itself fighting for survival against the forces of larger and stronger countries.

After a border skirmish in which David's two sons, Adonijah (George Sanders) and Solomon (Yul Brynner) defeat an Egyptian raiding party word is received that King David is near death in Jerusalem. Solomon immediately rides off to his father's side but Adonijah, the elder brother, anticipating his father's death, proclaims himself king.

Reaching his father's palace, Solomon is greeted by the beautiful Abishag (Marisa Pavan), daughter of Ahab, who has been adopted by David and is the symbol of unity among the tribes of Israel. She tells him his father still lives and a meeting of the Elders of Israel is called by the old king who tells them that in a dream the Lord willed that Solomon succeed him as King.

Adonijah, hearing the proclamation, retires to plot against his brother.

Solomon builds a temple to the Lord



Solomon decides which woman is the true mother of the baby.

upon the death of his father and Israel grows strong under its religion of The One God who has made the people free and equal.

The Egyptian Pharaoh (David Farrar) plans to send an army against the Israelites to subjugate them and keep their religion from spreading. But the Queen of Sheba has a plan to visit Jerusalem, seduce the Wise King and so turn his people against him.

Despite warnings from Abishag, who has a deep but unrequited love for him,

continued overleaf ▶



Solomon rules Israel and under his guidance and its religion of The One God grows strong to the envy of adjoining countries who attempt to destroy the Wise King by trickery and war.



The Queen of Sheba travels to Jerusalem where she plans to destroy Solomon King of Israel.



The new temple to The Lord has been completed and Solomon visits the beautiful building to pray.



A dying King David of Israel calls his two sons together, Adonijah and Solomon, before a gathering of the Elders of Israel to proclaim his successor.



A tremendous battle ensues between the Egyptians and the Israelites which ends in victory for the Israelites after facing certain defeat. The victory is due to a vision King Solomon had during a pause in the battle.

Solomon is attracted to the pagan queen. The attraction grows mutual, but Sheba, remembering her mission, proceeds with her seduction plans which culminate during an orgy Solomon has permitted the Shebans to stage within Jerusalem's sacred walls. The ceremony involves wild music and

dancing under the full moon, with Sheba giving herself to one of the men. When Solomon arrives at the orgy, Sheba completes his degradation by choosing him as her mate.

A storm arises and lightning strikes the Sheban idol Rha-Gon as well as the

Israelite temple, where Abishag, praying for Solomon, is killed.

With Solomon's people turning against their King and with Adonijah as his ally, the Pharaoh decides to attack Jerusalem.

While a loving and contrite Sheba prays to Solomon's God for his safety, he rides



The Sheban queen awaits the visit of King Solomon whom she attempts to seduce and so lose the respect of his people.



Abishag is impressed with Sheba's splendour when she visits the Queen's apartments.



With the Shield of David prominent, King Solomon rides out of Jerusalem at the head of his forces to meet the advancing Egyptians.



Solomon is troubled by his love for the Queen of Sheba against his own judgement.



The pagan Queen of Sheba offers a sacrifice to the idol Rha-gon while in Israel.

out to meet tremendously overwhelming Egyptian forces. After an early defeat, Solomon has a vision and, regathering his forces wipes out the Egyptian hordes.

Returning to Jerusalem, Solomon finds Adonijah inciting a mob to stone Sheba. Solomon kills his brother and, after being acclaimed by his people, asks Sheba to stay and rule with him. But she chooses to return to her land, where, she promises, Solomon's child will be raised in the monotheistic religion of Jehovah.



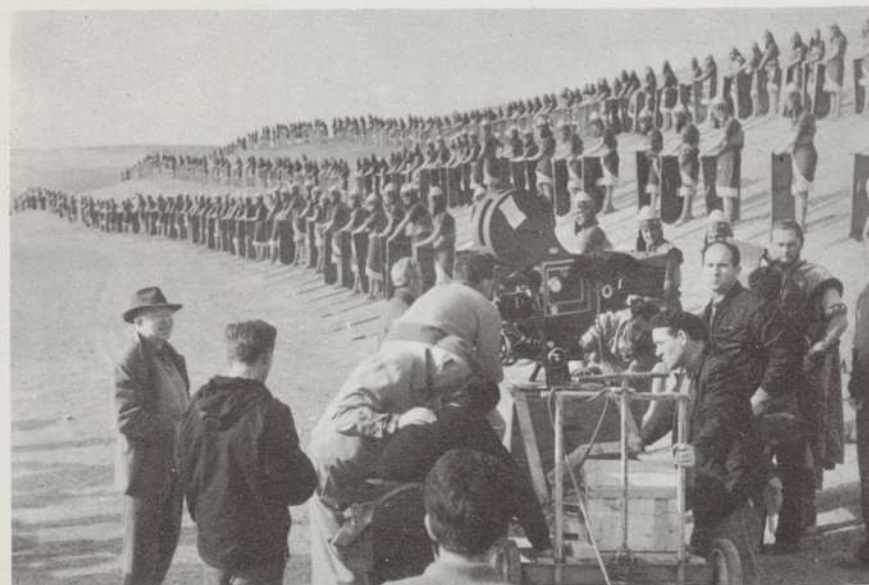
Solomon prays to The Lord for wisdom to rule his people.



Director King Vidor supervises the bath sequence during the filming of "Solomon and Sheba" in Spain. The huge tub was filled with scented asses' milk for Sheba.



Gina Lollobrigida takes a respite on location.



Director King Vidor lines up his armies for one of the tremendous battle sequences.



Director King Vidor experiments with a horse whip.

THE PRODUCTION

"Solomon and Sheba" was produced on a scale commensurate with its mighty theme, with all exterior sequences filmed in Spain, a cast of many thousands plus divisions of Spanish troops portraying the battling Israelite and Egyptian forces, several different units simultaneously shooting different sequences, and a complete disregard of cost which brought the total production expense to over £2,000,000.

For the battle sequences alone a freight train 40 cars long was required to transport the company, crew and equipment from Madrid to Los Monegros desert near Zaragoza.

The temple was built according to the description in the sixth chapter of I Kings in The Bible.

The costume designers had to make certain that the hundreds of costumes, vehicles, weapons and above all Miss Lollobrigida's twenty-four costumes and hundreds of jewelled ornaments, were absolutely authentic and would bring the picture full approval from Biblical scholars and historical experts.

Workmen erecting the temple which was built according to the description in the sixth chapter of I Kings.





Magda, Queen of Sheba, portrayed by Gina Lollobrigida. The beautiful Italian actress describes her role as the greatest any actress has ever been privileged to play. "There is," she adds, "only one trouble with having played the most famous courtesan of all times and that is after Sheba, all other roles will certainly seem tame and anti-climatic".

Solomon, King of Israel, portrayed by Yul Brynner. The most sought after actor rates his role of Solomon as the greatest he has had thus far and probably the greatest he ever will have. He points out that he saw his most challenging problem in the picture as "converting a magnificent legend into a human being".



BIOGRAPHIES

YUL BRYNNER

Yul Brynner, who plays Solomon, the wise King of Jerusalem, has had an impressive background in playing the King through his starring role in both stage and screen versions of "The King and I", for which he won the Oscar as best actor of 1956.

The Russian-born actor began his entertainment career singing to his own guitar accompaniment in Paris bistros, and much later toured the United States with the Moscow Art Theatre.

During the war, Brynner was both directing and acting in the fast-growing television field. By the time Rodgers and Hammerstein talked him into taking the role of the King of Siam in their musical, he had become executive director for CBS-TV in New York, and he has avowed since that acting is only his "part-time" job, and that he wants to return to directing as soon as feasible.



GEORGE SANDERS

George Sanders is cast as Solomon's eldest brother Adonijah and plays a particularly active and violent role. In the opening sequence he is leading an Israelite border patrol against Sheban raiders. As a renegade he fights alongside the Egyptians against his own people. Having instigated an assassination attempt against Solomon and incited a crowd to stone Sheba, he is finally killed in a duel with his brother.

Born in Russia of British parents, Sanders began his career in England in musical comedies, then progressed to West End theatres and eventually the screen.

His U.S. film debut in 1936 was made with Tyrone Power in "Lloyds of London". Since that time he has been in more than 60 films including "All About Eve" for which he won a Supporting Role Oscar in 1950.

During his stay in Spain he married Benita Hume Colman, widow of actor Ronald Colman in Madrid.



GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA

Gina Lollobrigida, as Magda, Queen of Sheba, is playing a role considerably different from her gamin-type or girl-of-the-streets parts. But there is no question that she is a Queen in every inch of her magnificent measurements.

A former art student, she continues to be a competent sketch artist. A former beautician she does her own makeup when working, sometimes taking as long as two hours for the perfectionism she demands in everything. She also enjoys designing costumes for her film roles—and in "Solomon and Sheba" she had two dozen changes—she sees every still and every foot of motion picture film taken of her, and she often suggests script changes to writers and directors.

Gina got her start in films in 1945 when Italian director Mario Costa gave her a role in "Love of a Clown".



MARISA PAVAN

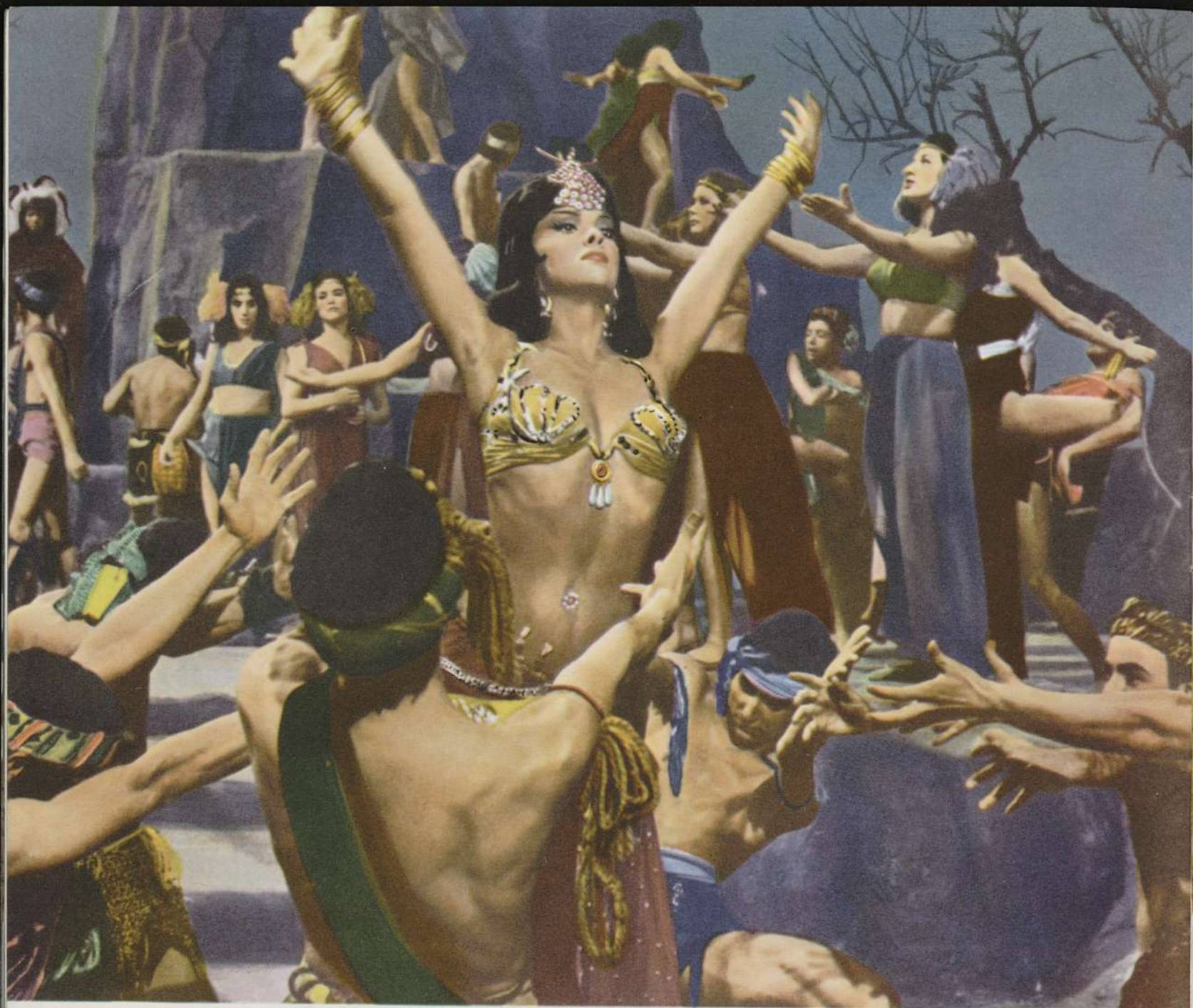
Marisa Pavan, as Abishag, is a living symbol of the unity of the twelve tribes of Israel.

When her unrequited love for Solomon brings about her death, the leaders of the tribes renounce their king—all except Abishag's father, Ahab, who joins Solomon in his battle against the Egyptians.

Like her compatriot co-star Gina, petite Marisa has a wide variety of interests outside her profession. She paints, sculpts, designs dresses, and has a fine appreciation of literature and poetry.

The 26-year-old twin of actress Pier Angeli first aspired to be a ballerina, but her father frowned on any career connected with entertainment.

However, after his death in 1950, she went to Hollywood to join her sister Pier and her fragile beauty resulted in many contract offers. Marisa finally made her screen debut in John Ford's "What Price Glory" and attained stardom with her role of Rosa in "The Rose Tattoo".



The orgy sequence and accompanying ballet, which cost more than £35,000 to film, was choreographed and staged under the direction of Jaroslav Berger, ballet chief of Switzerland's famed Berne State Theatre.



While the soundtrack reverberates to the pulse-quickenings rhythms of Prokofiev's "Scythian Suite", more than a hundred and fifty scantily-clad dancers undulate through their rites of supplication to a pagan god.



Preparations are made by Takyen and Sheba to receive Solomon.



The pagan queen begins to fall in love with the man she has promised to destroy.



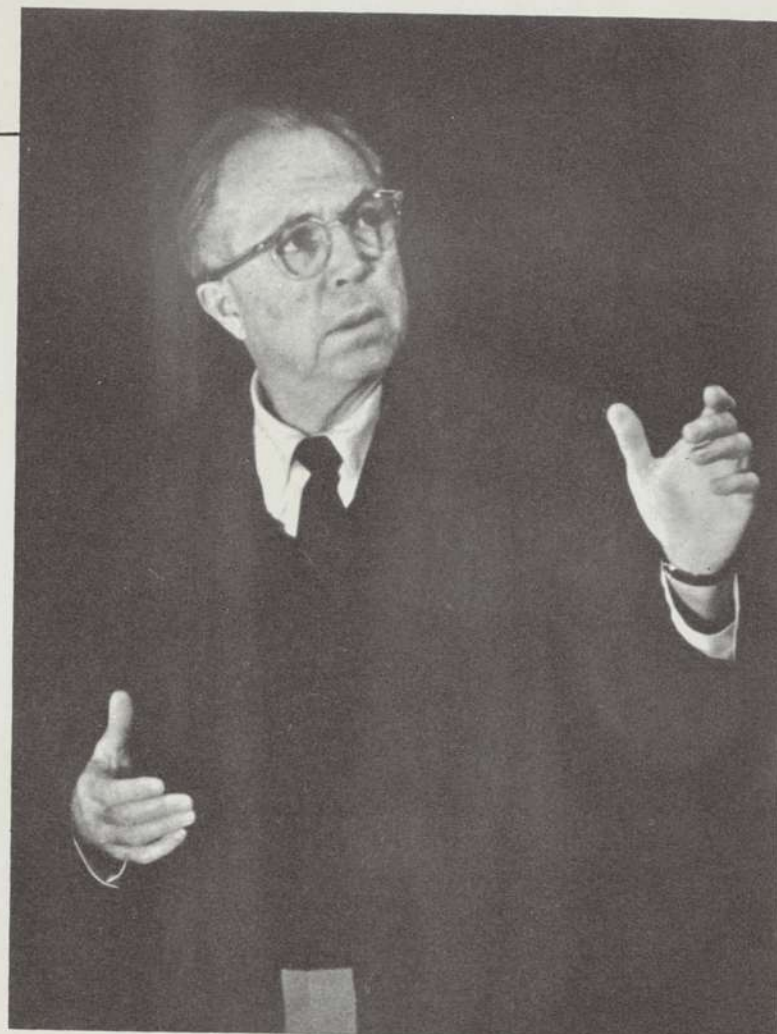
Solomon in his harem.

Solomon carries a dying Abishag from the lightning-stricken temple.



A scene from one of the three tremendous battle sequences. The Spanish Army horses used in the film are pure-bred descendants of the Arab stallions from the time of Solomon.

BIOGRAPHIES *(continued)*



KING VIDOR

King Vidor celebrated his 40th anniversary as a motion picture director during the filming of "Solomon and Sheba". Since his early beginnings in his native Texas, and later in the new film centre of Hollywood, Vidor has directed such outstanding films as "Peg O' My Heart", "Hallelujah", "Stella Dallas", "Duel in the Sun", and more than 50 others.

Although he had often directed large crowds and battle scenes in such films as "The Big Parade", and "War and Peace", Vidor is confident that the battle scenes in "Solomon and Sheba", involving as many as 5,000 troops borrowed from the Spanish army, will be among the most impressive ever to be seen on the screen. During the filming of these sequences on the arid plains of Zaragoza Vidor earned himself the title of "The General".

CAST AND CREDITS

Solomon	YUL BRYNNER
Sheba	GINA LOLLOBRIGIDA
Adonijah	GEORGE SANDERS
Abishag	MARISA PAVAN
Pharaoh	DAVID FARRAR
Joab	JOHN CRAWFORD
Hezrai	LAURENCE NAISMITH
Ahab	JOSE NIETO
Sittar	ALEJANDRO REY
Baltor	HARRY ANDREWS
Zadok	JULIO PENA
Bathsheba	MARUCHI FRESNO
Nathan	WILLIAM DEVLIN
Egyptian General	FELIX DE POMES
Takyan	JEAN ANDERSON
Josiah	JACK GWILLIM
King David	FINLAY CURRIE

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the Spanish Government Military authorities, who supervised the three tremendous battle sequences in SOLOMON AND SHEBA, and provided crack units of Spanish Infantry and Cavalry regiments to portray the Israelite and opposing forces. Outdoor sequences of SOLOMON AND SHEBA were filmed on location at Jaragoza, Spain; the famed and magnificent XVI Century Monastery of El Escorial; the "fairy-book" palace of Manzanares El Real; and on the plains of San Martin de la Vega.

An EDWARD SMALL Presentation. A KING VIDOR Production.

Produced by Ted Richmond. Directed by King Vidor. Screenplay by Anthony Veiller, Paul Dudley and George Bruce. From a story by Crane Wilbur. Assistant Directors, Piero Mussetta, Pepe Lopez. Second Assistant Director, Paul Gannapler. Choreography, Jaroslav Berger. Assistant Choreographer, Jean Pierre Genet. Music composed by Mario Nascimbene.

Art Directors, Richard Day, Alfred Sweeney. Co-ordinator of Design, Ralph Jester. Miss Lollobrigida's costumes executed by Emilio Schuberth. Wardrobe Co-ordinator, Eric Seelig. Production Assistant in charge of orgy sequence, Hamilton Keener. Production Manager, Richard McWhorter. Special Effects Supervisor, Alex Weldon. Cinematographer Freddie Young. Cameraman, John Harris. Film Editor, Otto Ludwig. Sound Recorders, F. C. Hughesdon, Aubrey Lewis. Sound Mixer, David Hildyard. Continuity, Elaine Schreyeck. Property Master, Robert Goodstein. Make-up, John O'Gorman, Tom Lee, Tom Tuttle.

Hairdresser, Ann Box. Special Still Photographers, Leo Fuchs, Bob Landry. Second Unit Director, Noel Howard. Second Unit Cinematographer, John Von Kotze. Second Unit Cameraman, Paul Wilson. Casting Director, Jose Luis de la Serna. Military Advisor, Major Martin de Pozuelo, Chief Staff Officer, Spanish Army. Technical Advisors, cavalry sequences, Augustin Medina and Kenny Lee.



IN THE SWEEPING WONDER OF

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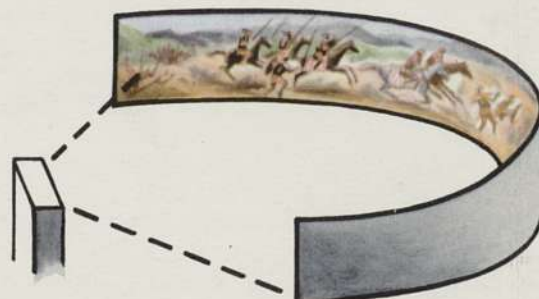
(35mm)

This is an ordinary 35mm Frame... used for standard productions.



(70mm)

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WRAP AROUND SCREEN

Therefore Super Technirama 70 means super-dimensionalized projection on a living screen... a wider, deeper and more detailed picture than heretofore attainable.

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