A Benelli Screening
for the Restoration of the
R.M.S. Queen Mary

March 11, 2000
Welcome Aboard!

A gracious welcome to all our guests who have come from near and far to be aboard the Queen Mary for this benefit screening of *The Poseidon Adventure*.

This evening we gather to watch a classic motion picture, meet the stars, and raise money for the Queen Mary.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and dedication to keeping the Queen Mary afloat. I know that tonight you will have an unforgettable evening.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Prevarail
President
RMS Foundation

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R.M.S. Restoration Fund Mission Statement

The RMS Foundation, Inc., is the non-profit organization charged with the maintenance, preservation, and restoration of the RMS Queen Mary. Founded in 1993, the RMS Foundation has been successful in reaching the level of operation necessary to dedicate a portion of its efforts toward true restoration and preservation. Current and past projects include renovating the teak decks, refurbishing the floor of the Main Hall, restoring the Verandah Grill, and restoring the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth suites. Donated funds are restricted to renovation projects. Your help by supporting tonight's event is vital to restoration of the RMS Queen Mary.

Thank you!
The Poseidon Adventure

The SS Poseidon is an 81,000-ton luxury liner making its last cruise after a long and illustrious career as "Queen of the Seas." During a gala New Year's Eve celebration, a monstrous wave strikes the Poseidon and overturns it, killing almost everyone on board. What follows is the brave and dramatic struggle of a few survivors who make their way through the upside down and rapidly sinking ship.

These survivors are led by the Reverend Scott (Gene Hackman), a man of remarkable will and capabilities. Also battling the odds are an older couple (Shelley Winters and Jack Albertson) on route to Israel, a policeman (Ernest Borgnine) and his ex-prostitute wife (Stella Stevens), a lonely bachelor (Red Buttons), a pretty young singer (Carol Lynley), an 18-year-old girl (Pamela Sue Martin), her 10-year-old brother (Eric Shea), and the ship's steward (Roddy McDowell).

A huge blockbuster hit it was released in December 1972, The Poseidon Adventure was an instant classic and reached the then rarefied heights of $100 million at the box office. Directed by Ronald Neame and produced by Irwin Allen, The Poseidon Adventure is both a thriller and a human drama. This film is a spell-binding classic that won two Academy Awards (Best Song for "The Morning After," and a Special Achievement Award for Visual Effects).

The physical challenges the cast faced were great. They were thrown from a deck that tilted 30 degrees, they climbed a gigantic steel Christmas tree to a tiny platform 32 feet in the air, they crawled over inverted walkways as high as 43 feet, they swam long stretches underwater, and much, much more. For the most part, the stars did these difficult stunts themselves.

The result of all this hard work was an enormously successful and entertaining film.

Jak Castro

Having survived a very brief (blink and you missed him) acting career, Jak turned his attentions to behind the camera. This benefit screening marks the first production for Jak's company, Morning After Productions. Previously, Jak produced a Spanish language documentary called Requeremtesfor Mothers Against Drunk Driving. On the horizon are several theatrical productions, as well as another documentary. As a major Poseidon Adventure fan himself, Jak is also the president of the first Poseidon Adventure Fan Club. His favorite character is Nonnie, although Linds has the best lines.

James Radford

A native of Raleigh, NC, James spent part of his childhood "playing" Poseidon Adventure with his sisters and brother—and they still have the scars to prove it! James has a BA in Communication/Theatre from Freed-Hardeman University, and is a long-time member of the West Coast Ensemble acting company in Hollywood. For the last 10 years, he has been the Merchandise Coordinator for the Precious Jewels Salon at Neiman Marcus Beverly Hills. James loves The Poseidon Adventure and the Queen Mary, and is thrilled to to able to support both tonight.
IN THE EARLY MORNINGS HOURS OF JANUARY 11TH, THE S.S. POSEIDON INSECT FROM NEW YORK TO ATHENS WAS STRUCK BY A 90 FOOT TIDAL WAVE AND CAPSIZED...

HELL, UPSIDE DOWN
At midnight on New Year's Eve the S.S. Poseidon was struck by a 90 foot tidal wave and capsized

WHO WILL SURVIVE - IN ONE OF THE GREATEST ESCAPE ADVENTURES EVER!

THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE
The Day the Queen Mary Almost Turned Over—Paul Gallico Writes the Novel

Paul Gallico, author of *The Poseidon Adventure*, was a former sportswriter who has several top-selling books to his credit. One of his works, *The Snow Goose*, was the basis for an award-winning television film.

Back in 1937, Gallico crossed to the United States from Great Britain on the great superliner, the RMS Queen Mary. This beautiful, 81,000 ton ship, over 1,000 feet long, has three smokestacks, and at that time, no stabilizers. Two days out from Southampton, the Queen Mary encountered heavy seas that caused her to roll.

Gallico was at lunch with a few passengers who were not seasick, when a trio of large waves hit the ship. The old girl lay on her side and stayed, for what could have been no more than a few seconds, but seemed like years.

The Queen Mary’s First Class dining room is amidship, as wide as the ship and three decks high—the largest room ever built on a ship. As she heeled over to port and glided along her side, Gallico was filled with horror.

Everything went: cutlery, crockery, glass, and waiters’ trays, in one cascading crash followed by timeless seconds of dead silence. At last, the ship righted herself and resumed her normal wallowing.

Thirty years later, when Gallico was looking for the subject of a novel, this incident came floating up to his consciousness—suppose the Queen Mary had rolled completely over that day—and the idea for *The Poseidon Adventure* was born.
Gene Hackman
Reverend Scott
Academy Award winner Hackman plays a rebellious minister who believes you should try to fight for yourself, and others, instead of praying to God to solve your problems. "May I have your attention, please? That's the way out."

Ernest Borgnine
Mike Rogo
Oscar winning actor Borgnine's Rogo is a tough, loud policeman. He can follow orders, but he has a strong personality and likes to do things his way. Mike and Linda Rogo are a memorable screen couple. "Take it easy, Baby, I'll be back."

Red Buttons
James Martin
Academy Award winner Buttons is a shy and lonely bachelor who finds someone to care for in the helpless Nonnie. Sometimes we all need an unlikely hero to say, "I'm not leaving without you."

Carol Lynley
Nonnie Parry
Award-winning actress Lynley gets an acting workout as she goes from extreme joy to wide-eyed fear and back again. She sings the Oscar-winning song "The Morning After." She is afraid of heights, can't climb ladders or swim, but boy, can she scream! "Oh, I can't leave my brother. He's all I've got."

Roddy McDowall
A Clock
A successful child actor that grew up to have a successful adult career. McDowall is the ship's cool, calm, and collected British steward. He leads the survivors up through the kitchen and towards the engine room. "It doesn't look very promising, does it?"

Stella Stevens
Linda Rogo
Someone runs out and get this talented actress a special achievement award for best performance by anyone ever in 6-inch platform shoes! Stevens took this part and ran with it, turning in a memorable performance as a loud, smart-mouthed, ex-prostitute. She is funny, abrasive, and at times, tender. Stevens also perfectly delivers the classic line, "Just panties, what else do I need?"
Shelley Winters
Belle Rosen

“Mrs. Peter Pan I’m not.” Screen legend and two time Oscar winner Shelley Winters gives us yet another remarkable performance. Long before Linda Hamilton fought a Terminator, and years before Sigourney Weaver battled an Alien, Shelley’s Belle Rosen spit in the eye of the Devil—taking that infamous swim so that she might save the lives of others. She paid the ultimate price.

Jack Albertson
Manny Rosen

Academy Award winner Jack Albertson plays Shelley’s screen husband, Manny. The voice of reason, the man who loves his wife and their life together—Manny tries to keep the mood light as he pushes and pulls the overweight Belle along. On and off the set, Jack was loved by all who worked with him.

Pamela Sue Martin
Susan Shelby

Beautiful Pamela Sue Martin brings a fresh innocence to the screen as 18-year old Susan. She’s bossy and protective of her 10-year old brother, Robin—and she’s smart enough to wear hotpants under her skirt! After The Poseidon Adventure, Pamela would go on to play tv’s Nancy Drew and she originated the role of Fallon on Dynasty. “That’s heavy, Robin, real heavy.”

Arthur O’Connell
Ship’s Chaplain

With two Oscar nominations and a list of top stage, television, and screen credits to his record, O’Connell was rated as one of the best character actors in the theatrical profession. In The Poseidon Adventure, O’Connell’s role as a religious traditionalist is in contrast to Hackman’s Reverend Scott, a theological activist. “You spoke only for the strong.”

Leslie Nielsen
The Captain

Nielsen portrays the Captain, an able seaman of doubtful moral courage as he allows himself to be bullied by the vessel’s owners into less than cautious procedures which lead to ultimate disaster. After The Poseidon Adventure, Nielsen went on to have an extremely successful comic career, as the star of the Police Squad movies, and as the Doctor in what is considered to be one of the funniest films ever—Airplane!

Eric Shea
Robin Shelby

Eric portrays a precocious, inquisitive boy who learns a great deal about the ship, Poseidon. This knowledge proves invaluable when the huge vessel is capsized. It is Robin’s suggestion that their best possible escape is at the outlet of the propeller shaft that has Reverend Scott leading the survivors to the engine room. Only a sassy little brother can get away with the line, “Shove it, above it, above it.” (slam door)
Famed British director, Ronald Neame, has won honors in every major category of filmmaking, beginning as a cinematographer and moving on to become a producer, writer, and director. He has received three Academy Awards nominations. He is well-known for directing such character-driven films as *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Tunes of Glory*, and many others. The *Poseidon Adventure* gave Neame the chance to direct an action adventure movie. "Dealing with the physical hardware of a film of this type—the upside down sets, the steam, the smoke, the oil, and actors performing under water—definitely adds an extra dimension to the problem of making the film," Neame said. "And yet, we know we have made not just a cliffhanger, but have established three dimensional characters, interesting in and of themselves, so that people care about what happens to them." The *Poseidon Adventure* is a Ronald Neame film.

Producer Irwin Allen spent three years of his life and risked a substantial portion of his fortune in bringing his production of *The Poseidon Adventure* to the screen. He discovered and then read galley proofs of the Paul Gallico novel, upon which the movie is based, in a single sitting and in 24 hours had bought it. His problem was that he envisioned a movie in the classic Hollywood style with a big cast, a big sets, and a big budget, at a time when Hollywood was "thinking small." It was only when Allen was able to match the investment of Twentieth Century-Fox with funds he raised from outside financiers that he was able to produce *The Poseidon Adventure*. Academy Award-winning producer, Allen, wanted this movie to be more—much more—than an action story. He brought together an incredible cast and a top-notch crew and created a classic motion picture.
Academy Awards 1973

Nominations

• Best Song—"The Morning After" by Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn
• Set Decoration/Art Direction—William Creber, Raphael Bretton
• Costume Design—Paul Zuniga
• Original Dramatic Score—John Williams
• Sound—Theodore Soderberg, Herman Lewis
• Film Editing—Harold F. Kress
• Cinematography—Harold E. Stein
• Best Supporting Actress—Shelley Winters

Wins

• Best Song—"The Morning After" by Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn
• Special Achievement Award for Visual Effects—L.B. Abbott and A.D. Flowers

Competition Included:

• Best Song—"The Morning After" by Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn

"The Morning After" was written by Al Kasha and Joel Hirschhorn. Recorded by Maureen McGovern on 20th Century Records, the song hit the #1 spot on the Billboard Charts in August 1973. A&M recording artist Renee Armand sang the featured song in The Poseidon Adventure where it was lip-synched for the film by Carol Lynley playing Nonnie, a singer in the ship's lounge.
• Special Achievement Award for Visual Effects—
L.B. Abbott and A.D. Flowers

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences decided in the early 1970s to salute special effects via a Special Achievement Award, not mandatory each year, to be voted by the Academy’s Board of Directors when they felt there was an achievement which made an exceptional contribution to the motion picture for which it was created.

The first recipient under the new rule was The Poseidon Adventure, a picture that boggled the eye, if not the mind, and a challenge to any special effects team as the luxury liner Poseidon is capsized by a tidal wave is one of the screen’s most stunning visual sequences. The magicians were L.B. Abbott and A.D. Flowers, who as a team, also won an Oscar for their Tora! Tora! Tora! special effects in 1970.

The capsizing of the SS Poseidon is climax by the dynamic fall by stuntman Ernie Orsatti from the overturned floor into a shattering skylight.

• Set Decoration/Art Direction—
William Creber, Raphael Bretton

The marvelous sets, designed by William Creber, and enhanced by set decorator Raphael Bretton, were researched down to the last detail. The sets are exciting and wonderful.

Amazing sets built to Queen Mary scale!
Production Designer—William J. Creber
Art Director—Ward Preston
Set Decorator—Raphael Bretton

• Costume Design—Paul Zastupnevich

Paul Z., as his co-workers called him, was required to design for both appearance and the development of character—and then watch his art be destroyed bit by bit in this action adventure story. For Stella Stevens, he created a plain, bias-cut gown of white champagne satin which showcases her natural beauty.
• Original Dramatic Score—John Williams

John Williams is a legend of movie music. He had worked with Irwin Allen before, writing the title themes for television’s *Lost in Space*, *Time Tunnel*, and *Land of the Giants*. He also wrote the music for *The Towering Inferno, Earthquake, Jaws, Star Wars, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Raiders of the Lost Ark, E.T., Superman, Jurassic Park, Schindler’s List*, and many, many more.

• Sound—Theodore Soderberg, Herman Lewis

• Film Editing—Harold E. Kress

There was a combo of three units working in turning the ship over: Abbott on miniatures, Neame with principals and extras, and Allen with extras, stunt people, and special effects. Neame and Kress would work every Saturday so they could view the editing that Kress had done during the week, and thus present a first cut a few days after completion of photography.

• Cinematography—Harold E. Stein

The great weight of achieving realism visually fell upon director of photography, Harold Stein, and his camera crew. Stein said he was fortunate that Director Ronald Neame was one of England’s best cameramen, which gave him a precise comprehension of the photographic problems involved.

“Neame was very understanding and cooperative to work with. Overall, it was quite an experience,” Stein said after filming.

• Best Supporting Actress—Shelley Winters as Belle Rosen

_The Poseidon Adventure_ offered Shelley another plum role as an overweight passenger on a capsized ocean liner whose extra poundage constantly hampers her attempts to escape. Her performance was so moving she received for her fourth Oscar nomination. Shelley was also nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Belle, and won!
Movie Photos—The Story Told in Pictures

“At midnight on New Year’s Eve, the SS Poseidon, en route from New York to Athens, met with disaster and was lost. There was only a handful of survivors. This is their story.”
Cast and Crew

Produced by Irwin Allen. Directed by Ronald Neame; associate producer, Sidney Marshall; assistant to the producer, Al Quilt; screenplay by Sterling Silliphant and Wendell Mayes; based on a novel by Paul Gallico; director of photography, Harold E. Armes, ASC; production designer, William Creber; assistant art director, Ward Preston; set decorator, Raphael Borron; costume designer, Paul Zazaarsznitz; film editor, Harold F. Kress, ACE; sound coordinator, Paul Snader; special photographic effects, L.B. Abbott, ASC; mechanical effects, A.D. Flowers; unit production manager, Hal Herman; first assistant director, Norman Cook; second assistant director, Les Warren; Don White; music by John Williams, sung by Al Kaufman; Joel Hirschhorn, orchestrations; Alexander Courage, scoring; Jack Bauer, unit publicist; John Campbell, makeup artist; Ida Butterworth, Del Acker, Allan Snyder, hair stylist, Carol Perchling, Sheri Korn, Ann Wadlington, production illustrators, Tom Cranham, Dan Goosen; sound supervisor, John Bonomo; production mixer, Herman Lewis; re-recording mixer, Theodore Soderberg; scoring mixing, Vinton Vernon; camera operator, Tommy Morris; gaffers, Chico Taylor, Ken Gay; Lou Fazelle, assistant film editor, William DeNicholas; script supervisor, Teresa Brachetto; property master, Bob A. Laughlin; color by De Luxe, produce by Keni Productions, Inc.; released by Twentieth Century-Fox. Running time, 117 minutes.

Reverend Frank Scott, Gene Hackman; legs, Ernest Borgnine; Martin, Red Buttons; Sonnie, Carol Lynley; Acres, Roddy McDowall; Linda Rags, Stellie Stevens; Belle Brass, Shelley Winters; Monterey Ram, Jack Albertson; Susan, Pamela Sue Martin; Captains, Leslie Nielsen; Chaplain, Arthur O’Connell; Robin, Eric Shea; Linneman, Fred Sadoff; Nave, Sheila Mathis; Dinos, John Houghton; Porter, Byron Webster; Chief Engineer, John Crawford; M.C., Bob Hastings; Timidman, Erik Nelson; Woman, Elizabeth Renow; Terry, Ernie Orsatti; Toddy, Stuart Perry; Photographers, Mark Teney; Guitarrist #1, Robert Wachtman; First Officer, Charles Bauman; Band Officer, Maurice Marsac; Second, James Cagney, Ken Stewart; Phil Adams, Wiper, Bob Golden; Radar Man, Ronald Craig; Assistant Engineer, Jim Galante; boat woman’s Maty, Geringe Payaye, ad ibi, Rosanne Williams, Connie Dufrenne, Brenda Remis, Chris Howell, Bill Catching, Fred Dale, Kathryn James, and Sheila Scotti.

Photographs from The Poseidon Adventure, copyright ©1972 by Twentieth Century-Fox. Used by permission.

Poseidon Facts and Figures

"Combining the talents of 15 Academy Award Winners"

In 1972, thirteen people with fifteen Oscars between them are to be found among the cast and crew of The Poseidon Adventure. They included Best Actor Winner—Gene Hackman, and two time Best Supporting Actress—Shelley Winters. Ernest Borgnine also won for Best Actor. Both Red Buttons and Jack Albertson have Best Supporting Actor Oscars. Then there’s producer Irwin Allen, writer Stirling Silliphant, composer/conductor John Williams, film editor Harold F. Kress, two time winner L.B. Abbott, cinematographer Harold E. Stein, set decorator Raphael Bretton, and mechanical effects man A.D. Flowers.

Trivia

#1 movie of 1973
Worldwide box office gross estimated at $165 million
At one time, the 4th most successful movie in all of film history
Winner of two Academy Awards
#1 hit song “The Morning After” recorded by Maureen McGovern

The Poseidon Adventure is available on DVD, widescreen video, standard video, as well as a CD of the soundtrack recording.

Soundtrack

Finally, The Poseidon Adventure music on CD! Film Score Monthly has produced a CD with the music from The Paper Chase, Conrack, and The Poseidon Adventure: This limited pressing of 3,000 copies was produced by Lukas Kendall and Nick Redman. The main title sounds fantastic! You can order this CD by visiting Film Score Monthly’s website at http://www.filmscoremonthly.com, or by picking up their magazine.
Come be a part of the Adventure! The Poseidon Adventure!

Join us and become a member of the first Poseidon Adventure Fan Club in the World! The Poseidon Adventure Fan Club is fully sanctioned by Twentieth Century Fox Studios.

As a fan club member, you will receive an original membership card, personalized and made exclusively for fan club members only, which will change each year that you will remain a member.

As a fan club member, you will receive a reproduction of the original survivor certificate which was used to promote the film in 1972. The survivor certificate is personalized on light blue parchment paper and is suitable for framing.

As a fan club member, you will be entitled to our newsletter, The Morning After News. The newsletter will feature articles on The Poseidon Adventure, the Queen Mary, games, interviews with cast and crew members from the film, and each issue will spotlight a different fan club member.

As a fan club member, you will also be entitled to special discounts on future merchandise, made exclusively by Morning After Productions such as cool t-shirts, bumper stickers, coffee cups, calendars, and more.

As a fan club member, you will also have the opportunity to purchase rare photos from The Poseidon Adventure through an exclusive deal with a local collectibles store.

Don’t head for the bow, come book a state room now!
A one-year membership is only $10.00.
Make checks payable to:
Jak Castro
P.O. Box 8185
Universal City, CA 91618-8185

Thank You
Morning After Productions, Jak Castro, and James Radford wish to thank:
Joe Obrycki    Robin Bianchi    Paul Wilson
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Our Queen Mary Coordinators:
John Adamson    Jenny Moore
and the entire staff of the RMS Foundation, Inc.

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