Screening Program

IRWIN ALLEN'S production of

20th CENTURY FOX

THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE

a RONALD NEAME film - PANAVISION® - COLOR BY DELUXE®
Irwin Allen's production of “The Poseidon Adventure” is a return to the classic style of filmmaking which established Hollywood as the Film Capital of the world. It is in the grand tradition of “Around the World in Eighty Days,” “The High And The Mighty,” “Airport,” and other great motion pictures of the “Grand Hotel” genre.

The story tells how the S.S. Poseidon, superannuated Queen of the Seas, is struck by a monstrous wave and capsizes on her last voyage to a ship-breaker’s yard in Greece. The vessel does not immediately sink and the film shows, in a most spectacular manner, the struggle of a handful of survivors making their way up through the inverted liner to the propeller shaft tunnel where there is some small hope of rescue.

A corollary to the drama on the screen is the story of how it arrived there. Producer Irwin Allen read galley proofs of the Paul Gallico novel upon which “The Poseidon Adventure” is based at a single sitting and twenty-four hours later had bought it. The finished film is the result of an investment of three years of Allen’s life and his enthusiastic willingness to bet a considerable portion of his personal fortune that the excitement he had for the picture would be shared by film-goers everywhere. However, the project had far from smooth sailing.

The major problem was that his inspiration occurred at a time when Hollywood, stung by some expensive failures, was extremely wary of costly productions and there was no way of producing “The Poseidon Adventure” on a limited budget. Start of the film was delayed twice because of the cost factor and only succeeded the third time when Allen and outside backers matched the investment of Twentieth Century-Fox.

Producer Allen, an Academy Award winner himself, assembled a distinguished cast including five additional Oscar honorees, Gene Hackman, Ernest Borgnine, Red Buttons, Shelley Winters (twice), and Jack Albertson. In the cast and staff there is a total of fifteen of these precious golden statuettes. Other established acting talents enlisted were Carol Lynley, Roddy McDowell, Stella Stevens, Pamela Sue Martin, Arthur O’Connell, Eric Shea, and Leslie Nielsen.

Ronald Neame, famed for his sensitive portrayals of human relationships, directed this imaginative sea tale whose essence is action. “The Poseidon Adventure” brilliantly identifies the principal characters so that there is enormous audience empathy with them as they endure their perilous trials. As a result, the picture has been called “the all-peoples picture regardless of sex or age.”

Academy Award winner Sterling Stilphen and Wendell Mayes were hired by Allen to write the screenplay from the Gallico novel, which was inspired by the trip the author made on the Queen Mary in 1957. During a storm the great ship almost rolled over. Lack of stability was an exciting problem with the Queen Mary, whose builders had thought her large enough to overcome such a difficulty. The tendency to roll in rough seas was not cured until stabilizers were added. Gallico thoroughly researched his novel before beginning it and came to the absolute conclusion that, given certain conditions, a great passenger liner could turn turtle as it does in “The Poseidon Adventure.”

Few motion pictures, if any, have been physically as trying on its actors as this one. For eleven of the fourteen weeks of production they struggled through a topsy-turvy world soaking wet amidst a miscellany of explosions, fire, and storm.

The physical challenges they faced would have shaken a team of acrobats. They were thrown from a dock that tilted thirty degrees, climbed a gigantic steel Christmas tree to a tiny platform thirty-two feet in the air, crawled over rocks, inverted walkways as high as forty-three feet, swam through stretches under water and much, much more. The stars did all these stunts themselves.

The sets for this Ronald Neame film were a real adventure into imagination for production designer William Creber. He had photographs of the anatomy of the Queen Mary which he could invent, but then he had to creatively project what would happen after that. Costume designer Paul Zastany, which had the dismaying experience of clothing the stars elegantly and watching his creations disintegrate daily under the stresses of the flight through the ship.

All told, “The Poseidon Adventure” was, indeed, an adventure in film-making. Nothing quite like it had ever been produced before and it was truly a journey into the unknown.

In a one-in-a-million circumstance, the ship which had inspired the story was also a multi-million dollar set for the film. The actual Queen Mary, now safely moored as a tourist attraction at Long Beach, California, was the scale for some of the pre-capsize sequences. Fittingly enough, “The Poseidon Adventure” was the first film ever to be shot aboard her.

Irwin Allen’s production of “The Poseidon Adventure” was as wild an adventure in its making as the dazzling picture is in its final form.
## THE CAST

**Reverend Frank Scott**  
**Rex**  
**Mollie**  
**Morris**  
**Ara**  
**Aline**  
**Lincoln Magee**  
**Mrs Magee**  
**Sir Charles**  
**Chaplain**  
**Robbie**  
**Lavonne**  
**Nurse**  
**Pam**  
**Pam时期的**  
**Chief Engineer**  
**M.G.**  
**Del**  
**Leslie Nissen**  

*as the Captain*  
*as the Captain*  

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## THE STAFF

**Produced by**  
**Directed by**  
**Associate Producer**  
**Assistant to the Producer**  
**Screenplay by**  
**Based on Novel by**  
**Director of Photography**  
**Production Designer**  
**Art Director**  
**Set Decorator**  
**Costume Designer**  
**Film Editor**  
**Unit Camera Operator**  
**Unit Production Manager**  
**First Assistant Director**  
**Second Assistant Director**  
**Music**  
**Song From The Poisoned Adventure**  
**Orchestrated by**  
**Captured by**  
**Unit Manager**  
**Makeup Artist**  
**Hair Stylists**  

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**Production Illustrators**  
**Sound Supervisor**  
**Production Manager**  
**Production Designer**  
**Staging Manager**  
**Camera Operator**  
**Gaffer**  
**Key Grip**  
**Art Director**  
**Sound Supervisor**  

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*Portions of this picture filmed aboard the QUEEN MARY in Long Beach, California, with the cooperation of the City of Long Beach, California Museum of the Sea Foundation, Specialty QUEEN MARY Corporation and F.S.A. Hotels, Inc.*

*Produced by KENT PRODUCTIONS, INC.*  
*Released by TWENTIETH CENTURY-Fox FILM CORPORATION*