

Capitol Enters Film Production With 'Space Vision' Dimensions

NEW YORK—Capitol Records' long-awaited entry into film production involves a striking new process, "Space Vision." While Capitol and Arch Oboler entered into an agreement last year which provided for the label to supply the financial backing necessary for the development of the process, announcement was withheld until the system could be demonstrated via a feature-length film, "The Bubble." This was done last week (17) at the CBS Studio Center in Studio City, with Alan Livingston, president of Capitol, and Oboler making the presentation.

Oboler, a writer/director, was responsible for the first 3D film in the early 50's, "Bwana Devil."

The venture will give Capitol a percentage of the profits derived from "The Bubble," which cost about \$1 million, and, in addition, the label will also share in the proceeds derived from the leasing of the newly-developed "Space-Vision" process to other motion-picture production companies.

Invented by Col. (Ret.) Robert V. Bernier, the new "4-D Space-Vision" adds, with a special eye-piece, the dimension of space to height, width and depth. The process also "frees" the motion picture from the screen and allows scenes to "float" over the heads of the audience.

Two additional films are in the planning stage, with the first to be shot in the spring.

"Bubble" will open in Detroit on Feb. 1, New York on Feb. 8 No date

for a Los Angeles opening has been selected. There will be no additional charge for admission into the theatres showing the new process.

Oboler and Livingston first began discussing the joint venture early last year. After a series of meetings, an agreement was reached whereby Capitol would provide the financing for the development of "Space-Vision" and "The Bubble."



Alan Livingston (right) and Arch Oboler discuss "Space Vision," with Oboler holding special "4D" lens used in the new film process.

The Space-Vision process is owned by Tru-D, and "The Bubble," the first picture made utilizing the process, was filmed by Midwestern Magic-Vuers, Inc. Capitol and Oboler have interests in both companies.

Written, directed and produced by Oboler, and featuring Michael Cole, Deborah Walley and Johnny Desmond, "The Bubble" had its world premiere at the Woods Theatre in Chicago, where it has grossed more than \$100,000 since its Dec. 18 opening. News of the film's success has thus far brought more than 100 requests for major bookings throughout the country, according to George J. Schaefer, sales representative for the firm.

FRONT COVER



Eddie Fisher was welcomed back last fall to RCA Victor Records, home of his most successful disks, in a manner that delighted both the artist and the label: a hit record. The big side was "Games That Lovers Play," which also proved to be a strong-selling LP of the same name. Currently, Eddie with a follow-up to "Games," "People Like You." Both tunes were penned by Larry Kusik and Eddy Snyder. Last Sunday, he appeared on the Andy Williams TV'er. On Feb. 2, he opens at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., beginning a string of TV and in-person dates that are set through June.

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Decca Names Sloman Its Man In Europe

NEW YORK—In a continuing drive to expand the company's operation on all levels, Leonard W. Schneider, executive vice president of Decca Records, has appointed Mike Sloman to the newly created post of European representative for the U. S. label. Sloman's duties will encompass liaison between the U. S. Decca label and European producers in the acquisition of masters, talent and projects for release on the Decca and Coral labels throughout the world.

Sloman joined English Decca in 1959 as the manager of their Italian Division, branching out, soon after, into promotional duties covering England, Germany, Italy and Luxembourg.

In June of 1962 he came to the United States to join Liberty Records as their assistant to the International sales director. He served in this capacity until September of 1964 when he was transferred by Liberty back to England to take charge of their European operation, a post he held until resigning to accept his present position with U. S. Decca. During his European tenure with Liberty, Sloman is credited with bringing many top names to the indie U. S. label. Among these are the Hollies, Billy J. Kramer, the Swinging Blue Jeans, Frank Purcell and Adamo.

Sloman will headquarter in London at the offices of MCA Artists Ltd., 139 Piccadilly, making periodic trips to the Continent in pursuit of his over-all Decca duties.

London Distribs Get Royal Treatment In London Town 20th Year Meeting

LONDON—More than 160 American music tradesters received royal treatment as London Records served up its 20th anniversary program, aptly tagged "20 (LP's) for 20," at the home of its parent company, Decca Records Ltd.

Actually, there are 21 new releases, the 21st, a new Mantovani set, "Mantovani's Golden Hits," being described as "plus one for good luck." The company will run a "March Is Mantovani Month" promo, an annual program at the label for the past 16 years.

Historic Parliament Visit

When London's guests were not being apprised of the label's strong product release, the label made sure that they would bring back to the U.S. a number of memorable social occasions. A Monday tour of Parliament and dinner at the Member's Dining Room at the House of Commons even proved historic. It reportedly marked the first time in history that non-Members of Parliament had seen sections of Parliament, and that also goes for British subjects themselves. Hosting this colorful visit was Richard Hornby, an MP.

The Maestros On Tuesday

With such a tough social act as the Parliament visit to follow, the label gave what was termed by the guests a "magnificent dinner" at the Dorchester, hosted by the label's lineup of maestros. Hosting a table each were Ronnie Aldrich, Stanley Black, Camarata, Frank Chacksfield, Robert Farnon, Ted Heath, Roger Laredo, Mantovani, Edmundo Ros, Eric Rogers and Roland Shaw. The wit of Sir Edward Lewis, Decca chairman, set the mood of the fun-filled evening, and D. H. Toller-Bond, president of London, contributed much to the merriment with his treatise on Anglo-American relations. After dinner speaker Arthur Dickson Wright stole the show with his droll British humor and Max Bygraves concluded the entertainment for the evening. A charming innovation in banquet formalities was the periodic rotation (twice during the meal) of the men at each

table. Earlier in the day, the British national drink, tea, came in handy, as distribs and their wives spent a chilly, but interesting day visiting Cambridge. On Wednesday, Decca hosted a typical English meal at the Elizabethan Room, a restaurant.

Highlight Album Product

Various London executives presented the London line-up of LP's celebrating the diskery's 20th year in business, at the Decca studios. Herb Goldfarb, sales manager, offered Mantovani's 45th album for the label, "Mantovani's Golden Hits." He pointed out that Mantovani has sold more than \$75 million worth of LP product over the past two decades, six of the albums receiving RIAA-certified gold records for sales of at least \$1 million. In addition, it was noted that the maestro has been seen by 2½ million people "live" during his annual concert visits in the U.S. Goldfarb also presented the new Tom Jones album, "Green Green Grass of Home," the single cut of the same name that has reached the million sales figure in England, a remarkable showing for this market, and British Decca's first million-seller. The Rolling Stones, consistent winners on London, also have a new LP, "Between the Buttons." This set follows five other albums, all of which are gold record winners.

Tony D'Amato, A&R head of London's Phase 4 "sound" line presented seven new sets, "Bullfight" with Roger Laredo, "Two Pianos in Hollywood" with Ronnie Aldrich, "Heath Vs. Ros, Round 2" and "France," with Stanley Black & the London Festival Orchestra and Chorus with the Mormon Choir of England. D'Amato said that the Phase 4 line, now a catalog of 98 albums, was being designed with more commercial releases to reach a broad market "Stokowski/Wagner," Leopold Stokowski conducting the London Symphony Orchestra, "Strauss Waltzes" with Antal Dorati conducting the London Philharmonic (Continued on page 50)

Sheppard To Direct King's A&R, Promotion

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.—Syd Nathan, president of King Records, announced last week at his winter offices in Miami, the exclusive signing of William "Bunky" Sheppard to a long-term contract as A&R director and promotion chief for King and its subsidiary labels. Nathan also announced the subsequent release of the first two records produced by Sheppard under the new arrangement, "Why, Why, Why" b/w "Right Now" by Mill Evans and "Why Am I Crying" b/w "That's How Long I'm Gonna Love You" by Shirley Wahls.

A veteran of more than ten years in the record business, Sheppard owned and operated his own company Apex Records during the late 1950's and produced the label's only hit, "Island of Love" by the Sheppards.

In 1961, Sheppard produced a session by a then unknown artist, Gene Chandler, and leased the sides to Ewart Abner at Vee-Jay. From that session came the smash, "Duke of Earl," which earned for Sheppard a key position on the Vee-Jay R&B staff. Abner also utilized Sheppard's strong established relationships with the country's leading R&B disk-jockeys by appointing him national director of R&B promotion.

Sheppard left Vee-Jay in 1963, along with Abner, to form Constellation Records. At the new label, he was much the same as at Vee-Jay. During the years at Constellation, he produced the following hits with Gene Chandler: "Just Be True"; "Nothing Can Stop Me"; "Rainbow '65" and the album "Gene Chandler — Live On Stage."

Sheppard will for the time being be operating from his home in Chicago. Any artists, songwriters, etc., wishing to contact him can do so at 7750 S. Calumet, Chicago.

Kapp Hits New Sales Highs Over 6 Months

NEW YORK — Kapp Records came across with its biggest sales period in history for the six month period ending last Dec. 31, reports Dave Kapp, president.

Kapp attributes the record volume which is 62.8% over the same six months of its previous year to several factors. The company has enjoyed hits by its two artists, Roger Williams and Jack Jones, as well as strong sales action from its original cast album of the hit show "Man Of La Mancha," The Critters, and The Gunter Kallmann Chorus. The label has placed three artists on the country charts and has also diversified with its strong entry into the R&B field.

Kapp also pointed out the "substantial strengthening" of the sales and promo areas resulting from policies put into effect with the appointment last year of Sid Schaffer as vice president in charge of sales, and Joe Berger, national sales manager. Kapp has also recently created and filled new positions in sales and promotion across the country which have been reported previously.

Kapp's latest hit single disks are "Lady" by Jack Jones, "Sunrise, Sunset" by Roger Williams, "Little Black Egg" by the Nightcrawlers, and "Wish Me a Rainbow" by the Gunter Kallmann Chorus with Orchestra and Bells.

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