

INT: Ladies and gentlemen. All of you are familiar with the recent trend in Hollywood to make long, spectacular movies at astronomical costs. Last week, ~~the~~ Silverdiamond Productions, Inc. finished shooting the longest, most expensive motion picture ever made, which will have its ~~premiere~~ <sup>premiere</sup> next Tuesday. It runs for twenty-one hours and thirty-two minutes, has sixty-two leading characters all played by top name stars, and <sup>cost</sup> the fantastic sum of \$900,000,000 <sup>for film.</sup> This evening, we are honored to have with us its producer, Mr. ~~is~~ <sup>Sol</sup> Silverdiamond. Let's welcome him with a large round of applause.

(SILVERDIAMOND WALKS ON STAGE. HIS HAIR IS SNOW WHITE. HE WEARS SUNGLASSES WITH HEAVY BLACK FRAMES, A WHITE SPORT SHIRT UNBUTTONED AT THE COLLAR, AN ASCOT, DARK SLACKS AND A PLAD SPORT COAT. HE SPEAKS WITH A PRONOUNCED JEWISH ACCENT, AND A NEW YORK DIALECT). It's an honor to have you here, sir.

Sil: It's my pleasure Mr \_\_\_\_\_, however you'll have to excuse me, I don't feel well this evening. I'm very nervous.

Int: That's understandable Mr. Silverdiamond. Nine hundred million dollars is a rather large investment for a single motion picture.

Sil: It took all of my savings.

Int: In the event your efforts prove unsuccessful, what are your plans?

Sil: Work for my brother Irv. He has a delicatessen over on third avenue and promised my wife and I a job behind the counter. You would like one of my pastrami sandwiches. I'm Jewish, you know.

Int: I had an idea you were. **Sil:** With a name like Silverdiamond, what else could I be?

Int: Tell us, sir, what is the title of your new movie?

Sil: "The History of the World".

Int: "The History of \_\_\_\_\_"

Sil: That's it. "The History of the World"

Int: Well-what-what is it about?

Sil: Everything!

Int: Do you mean to tell us that you have actually make a movie about everything that has ever happened?

Sil: Up until 1946 when we started- 17 years and nine hundred million dollars ago. I get so nervous.

Int: Tell us something about it.

Sil: (UNRESPONSIVE) It took us so long to make this movie, the girl who played Joan of Arc ended up playing Eleanor Roosevelt without makeup.

Int: Tell us something about it?

Sil: Well, let me see. In the beginning-----

Int: Just a minute. You didn't start that far back?

Sil: We didn't want to leave anything out. Oh, we did such a beautiful job with the story of The Creation--fire, tital waves, lighting, Spencer Tr ~~ay~~ plays God, the whole b~~et~~. And then,we cut into the Garden of Eden.

Int: Who plays the part of Adam?

Sil: A fine young Jewish boy, Eddie Fisher. Elizabeth Taylor is Eve and Richard Burton plays the Snake.

Int: Did you do the entire bible?

Sil: That's right, both testimonials.

Int: What comes next?

Sil: After Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton?

Int: After the bible.

Sil: Then we did the whole Roman thing - from beginning to end - and in two different ~~versions~~ <sup>versions</sup>, already!

Int: What was the difference?

Sil: Well, the European one has the sex. You know, big parties ~~were the guests~~ where the guests come wearing sheets that are either too tight or too loose. There's twelve pages of stills in next month's "Playboy".

Int: And the American version?

Sil: There you got a censorship problem. So instead, we do the thing by showing the big negro slaves, all in ~~chains~~ <sup>Chains</sup>, getting whipped unconscious. Then we show a traillor get captured and slowly toughtered to death. The regular jazz - gladiators maiming each other, people being eaten alive by wild beasts, big bloody wars, crucifixtions, rape, murder, you know, only the staff they let pass.

Int: What comes next?

Sil: Well, the story moves on, and Before you know it, its the Dark Ages, which I wanted to leave out.

Int: Why ?

Sil: During that time not too much happened, no box office stuff.

Int: What about Theodoric and his East Goths, Charles the Fat, the great monks Abelard, Fra Angelico and St. Basil Cappadocia; the great states of Austrasia, Neustria and Aquitaine, the Emirate of Cordova, the Duchy of Beneventum, not to mention Ven~~er~~able Bede, the distinguished English Scholar?

Sil: Well, I still think that all shouldn't have gone in.

Int: How about Christopher Columbus?

Sil: Well, he's in it. We needed an Italian for that part, so we got Frank Sinatra. Of course, we had to agree to his terms.

Int: Which were?

Sil: We had to give all his friends parts. But that part of the script only called for a lot of funky sailors. So we had to change the story. It came out pretty bad, I think.

Int: Why?

Sil: First, we had to put a cocktail lounge on the Santa Maria so that Dean Martin had a place to drink. Imagine. Then, Sammy Davis Jr. and May Britt had to come along as a young married couple on their first cruise. Then, when they finally discovered land, they have this big beach party and-----

Int: I can see your point. Tell us Mr. Silverdiamond, did you encounter any serious problems while shooting "The History of the World".

Sil: Yes, in the closing scene when we were doing the ~~close~~<sup>end</sup> of the war and we dropped ~~the~~<sup>that</sup> atomic bomb on that vilage in South-East Asia.

Int: You dropped a real atomic bomb on real people?

Sil: So now we know it was a mistake. At the time, well, we wanted realism, and these people looked like Japanese, and - I hadn't read "The Ugly American".

Int: You didn't really drop--

Sil: Yes we did. Oh, it was horrible. Thousands of mangled bodies, thousands screaming for medical attention--radiation burns--I felt terrible about the whole thing.

Int: Thank you for talking with us.