

Olympic film

Simple but yet lucid, "Tokyo Olympiad" was the name chosen as the title of the moving picture record, from more than 80 000 entries received in a contest held in Japan for the best title of the film.

Early in June 1964, a script which gave the guide for the production of the film was completed. This script did not conform to the pattern of other olympic films, and was a good indication of the ideas that director Kon Ichikawa would develop and formed an admirable guide for his staff members and cameramen.

Ichikawa tackled the gigantic theme of "creation" in recording the Tokyo Games on film. In portraying this he sought to present a drama featuring the glory of man as a living creature, by depicting running, jumping, swimming and other movements.

A total of 500 staff members worked with 103 cameras in perfect team work under Ichikawa. The total length of the resulting film was 400 000 feet (which would require an audience to be at a cinema theater three full days and three hours) and the total length of sound recording tape would require 240 hours for playing.

The staff members and editors have kept busy compiling the film, reducing it to the 16 000 feet limitation of a three-hour screening. The music of the film is by Toshiro Mayuzumi, who also composed the beautiful "Olympic Campanology" which was heard at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games.

"Tokyo Olympiad" is now completed. Elaborate planning by both the Tokyo Organizing Committee and the Toho Motion Picture Company for the public screening of the film is aimed at giving as many people as possible an opportunity to see this moving record of the Tokyo Olympic Games.