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Press Release

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Mammoth Epic Napoléon Screening with 5 Kinoton Projectors

Rome, September 22, 2007. The Colosseum in Rome provided a spectacular setting for the French epic silent movie Napoléon. The demanding screening of Abel Gance's 1927 masterpiece was the highlight of the 30th Estate Romana annual cultural event.

210 years after being invaded by Napoleon Bonaparte's troops, Rome has once again been conquered by the great Corsican. Backed by the Orchestra di Roma e del Lazio performing the live film music written by Carmine Coppola, the filmic story of the rise of Napoleon I of France mesmerised a vast audience. The 3,000 seats of the open air cinema were nowhere near enough for the heavy rush of people – in fact, about 8,000 cineasts were flocking the place, acknowledging the filmic event with lots of applause.



Napoléon is one of the most innovative works of the French pioneering filmmaker Abel Gance (1889 – 1981). The monumental cinematographic opus includes several hand toned scenes as well as a triple side-by-side projection of the final reel presenting a staggering battlefield panorama. Abel Gance had called this procedure Polyvision, anticipating subsequent panoramic film formats such as Cinerama or Cinemascope. The original movie was restored by the film historic Kevin Brownlow in 1980, providing the for Francis Ford Coppola's 1981 re-edited version now exhibited at the Colosseum.

The challenging projection was carried out by Kinorama, a partner of Kinoton GmbH. Kinorama used two Kinoton FP 30 E film projectors for the first 12 reels and further three FP 25 E film projectors for the final triptych scenes presented in a 33 m wide frame-accurate parallel projection of three adjacent pictures 11 m x 8.5 m each.

The screening was carried out entirely by hand without any automation. The Kinorama projectionists had to stay highly concentrated throughout more than four hours of screening to assure a precise change-over presentation of all 12 reels and the 17 minutes of three-reel parallel projection.



Napoléon has been presented in Rome before: The first screening had taken place in 1981 when the freshly edited Coppola version was exhibited at the same site. Both Napoléon screenings, in 1981 as well as 2007, were supervised by C. Chapin Cutler, Jr., Vice President of Kinoton America.

The Estate Romana (Roman Summer) is an annual series of cultural events taking place all over Rome from June to September. It comprises performances and activities such as rock festivals, classic music concerts, stage plays, art installations and cinema shows.

(Napoleon image copyright: Zoetrope Corporation and The Film Preserve, Ltd, with permission.)

About Kinoton

Almost sixty years of experience make Kinoton, headquartered close to Munich/Germany, one of the world-wide leading designers and manufacturers of professional equipment for processing and projection of film and digital pictures. Kinoton offers complete system solutions for cinema and studio applications as well as for large format and special venue projection. The extensive product range also includes the innovative Litefast 360° LED Display systems for advertising and digital signage.

The well-established system provider with a staff of 160 employees and in-house manufacturing keeps impressing professional circles with innovative technical developments. An extensive international service and support network with competent partners guarantees reliable customer proximity all over the world.

More information about Kinoton is on the Internet at www.kinoton.com and www.litefast-display.com.