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MISSION MARS

F6.3216

Sagittarius Productions Red Ram Productions. *Dist* Allied Artists. Jul 1968 [c1 Apr 1968; LP35650]. Sd; col (Berkey). 35mm. 87 min. [Copyright length: 95 min.]

Prod Everett Rosenthal. *Exec Prod* Mort Fallick. *Assoc Prod* Lawrence Applebaum. *Dir* Nicholas Webster. *Screenplay* Mike St. Clair. *Story* Aubrey Wisberg. *Photog* Clifford Poland. *Prod Dsgn* Hank Aldrich. *Film Ed* Paul Jordan. *Supv Ed* Michael Calamari. *Mus* Berge Kalajian, Gus Pardalis. *Songs Sung by* The Forum Quorum. *Sd* Sanford Rackow, John W. Barry. *Asst Dir* Sal Scoppa. *Cost* Grover Cole. *Sp Eff* Haberstroh Studios.

Cast: Darren McGavin (*Mike Blaiswick*), Nick Adams (*Nick Grant*), George De Vries (*Duncan*), Heather Hewitt (*Edith Blaiswick*), Michael De Beausset (*Cliff Lawson*), Shirley Parker (*Alice Grant*), Bill E. Kelly (*Russian astronaut*), Chuck Zink (*Chuck*), Ralph Miller (*Simpson*), Art Barker (*doctor*), Monroe Myers (*Lawson's aide*).

Science fiction melodrama. U. S. astronauts Mike Blaiswick, Nick Grant, and Duncan blast off from Cape Kennedy on the first American space flight to Mars. As they approach their rendezvous with an orbiting supply ship, they are horrified to see the frozen, lifeless bodies of two Russian astronauts, the victims of an unsuccessful Soviet flight to Mars. Upon landing on the planet, the astronauts find the body of another Russian. While Grant takes the body back to the spaceship, Mike and Duncan are attacked by a strange mechanical object called a polarite, which is activated by the sun's rays. After immobilizing the polarite, they contact Earth and are ordered to terminate their mission immediately. Before they can do so, however, a huge glowing sphere neutralizes the ship's rocket power and engulfs Duncan. Mike and Grant notice that the Russian astronaut has returned to life, and he tells the Americans that the polarite can only be stopped by blocking its source of solar energy. Though it costs him his life, Grant uses his laser gun to temporarily reduce the magnetic hold of the planet, thereby enabling Mike and the Russian to return safely to Earth. *Astronauts. Russians. Space exploration. Reviviscence. Self-sacrifice. Spaceships. Laser. Solar energy. Cape Kennedy. Mars (planet).*

Note: Filmed on location in and around Miami.

MISSION STARDUST (Italy/Spain/West Germany)

F6.3217

P. E. A.-Aitor Films-Tefi. *Dist* Times Film Corp. Oct 1968 [Los Angeles opening]. Sd; col (Technicolor). 35mm (Techniscope). 95 min.

Dir Primo Zeglio. *Assoc Dir* Ricardo Sanz. *Screenplay* Karlheinz Vogelmann, Karlheinz Scheer, Sergio Donati, Primo Zeglio, Federico de Urrutia. *Story* Karlheinz Vogelmann. *Photog* Riccardo Pallottini, Manuel Merino. *Art Dir* Jaime Pérez Cubero. *Film Ed* Renato Cinquini. *Mus* Antón García Abril. *Song* Marcello Giombini. *Asst Dir* Renato Moretti. *Prod Supv* Jesús García Gárgoles.

Cast: Lang Jeffries (*Maj. Perry Rhodan*), Essy Persson (*Thora*), Gianni Rizzo (*criminal leader*), John Karlsen (*Kress*), Pinkas Braun (*Rotkin*), Luis Dávila (*Captain Bull*), Daniel Martín, Joachim Hansen, Ann Smyrner, Stefano Sibaldi, Janos Bartha, Giuseppe Addobbati, José Jaspe.

Science fiction melodrama. Based on the series of *Perry Rhodan* novels begun by Clark Darlton. A group of American astronauts led by Maj. Perry Rhodan land on the moon and find Thora and Kress, two space beings from an advanced civilization stranded with their spaceship crippled. Kress is dying of a strange malady, discovered to be leukemia, and the entire group flies to East Africa in search of a famous blood specialist. A group of spies discover that Kress and Thora represent a form of life whose technology is greatly advanced beyond Earth's, and members of the spy ring disguised as the physician and his nurses attempt to capture the space people. Even though Major Rhodan's crew includes a traitor, the astronauts and their space friends defeat the spies, but some of them escape. Thora uses her advanced weapons to destroy their refuge, however, and Kress is cured when the real physician is found. It is then decided that the technology of the faraway planet should be withheld from Earth, since the human race appears ill-equipped to handle such power and responsibility. *Spacemen. Astronauts. Spies. Physicians. Nurses. Traitors. Technology. Impersonation. Conspiracy. Cancer. Spaceships. The Moon. East Africa.*

Note: Opened in Rome in Aug 1967 as *4... 3... 2... 1... morte*; running time: 95 min. Released in West Germany in Oct 1967 as *Perry Rhodan—SOS aus dem Weltall*; running time: 79 min; in Spain as *Órbita mortal*; running time 92 min.

MISSION TO HELL see SAVAGE!

MISSION TO HONG KONG see RED-DRAGON

MISSISSIPPI MERMAID (France/Italy)

F6.3218

Films du Carrosse-Les Productions Artistes Associés-Produzioni Associate Delphos. *Dist* Lopert Pictures, United Artists. 10 Apr 1970 [New York opening; c10 Apr 1970; LP38882]. Sd; col (DeLuxe). 35mm (Dyaliscope). 123 min. *MPAA rating* GP.

Prod Marcel Berbert. *Dir-Adapt-Dial* François Truffaut. *Dir Photog* Denys Clerval. *Camera* Jean Chiabaut. *Asst Camera* Jacques Assuerus. *Art Dir* Claude Pignot. *Film Ed* Agnès Guillemot. *Mus* Antoine Duhamel. *Sd* René Levert. *Sd Rec* Guy Chichignoud. *Asst Dir* Jean-José Richer, Jean-François Dètré. *Prod Mgr* Claude Miler. *Script Girl* Suzanne Schiffman. *Gen Mgr* Roland Thénot. *Makeup* Michel Deruelle, J. P. Eychenne. *Hairdresser* Jacqueline Anatole. *Set Photog* Léonard de Reamy.

Cast: Jean-Paul Belmondo (*Louis Mahé [Durand, dubbed vers?]*), Catherine Deneuve (*Julie Roussel/Marion*), Michel Bouquet (*Comolli*), Nelly Borgeaud (*Berthe Roussel*), Marcel Berbert (*Jardine*), Martine Ferrière (*landlady*), Roland Thénot (*Richard*), Yves Drouhet.

Romantic melodrama. Source: William Irish, *Waltz Into Darkness* (New York, 1947). Louis Mahé, a millionaire tobacco plantation owner on the island of Réunion, has become engaged through the personals columns of a French newspaper to Julie Roussel and awaits her arrival on the steamer *Mississippi*. He is greeted by a young woman who surprises him by her beauty and explains that she sent her sister's photo to assure the sincerity of his intentions. They quickly marry, and Louis's adoration of his new bride makes him overlook incongruities with Julie's description of herself in her letters. One day, Louis's bride absconds after emptying his bank accounts. Louis meets Julie's sister, Berthe Roussel, who informs him that the woman he married was not Julie; together they hire a private detective, Comolli, to track down the impostor and find Berthe's sister. En route by plane to Nice, Louis is suddenly stricken ill. Recuperating in a sanitarium, he sees Julie on television, dancing at a nightclub in Antibes. He travels there and hides in her hotel room, intent on killing her. She offers no resistance, but, explaining that her name is Marion, she tells him of her past, including years spent in prison, and of her association with a heartless gangster, Richard. Richard was with her on the *Mississippi* when they met Julie Roussel and learned of her forthcoming marriage. He had fabricated a plot to kill Julie and send Marion in her place to rob Louis; and afterwards Richard had forced her to go through with the robbery. Louis quickly forgives Marion, and they decide to live together in France on profits from the plantation. In Aix-en-Provence their happiness is interrupted by Comolli, who has discovered Julie's murder. After trying in vain to bribe the detective to drop the case, Louis shoots him and buries him in the wine cellar of their house. He flees with Marion to Lyons, but she grows increasingly dissatisfied with their fugitive existence and longs to enjoy a life of luxury in Paris. To obtain funds, Louis returns briefly to Réunion and sells his share in the plantation, but upon his return he finds the police on their trail. They are again forced to flee, leaving behind the money; penniless, they hide out in a cabin in the French Alps, but Marion is restless and irritable. Louis becomes increasingly ill, and one day he becomes aware that Marion has been administering quantities of rat poison in his coffee. Near collapse, he makes an attempt to escape, but Marion brings him back to the cabin. He reveals his knowledge of her plan, and, urging her to fill his coffee glass, he affirms his acceptance of his fate, his lack of regrets, and his overwhelming love for her. Struck with shame, Marion knocks the glass from Louis's hand and vows to make amends. As he regains his strength, they flee the hut together into the snow. *Confidence women. Detectives. Plantations. Fugitives. Impersonation. Wealth. Marriage. Robbery. Murder. Poisoning. Ships. Sanitariums. Nightclubs. Hotels. Réunion. Nice. Antibes. Lyons. Alps. Aix-en-Provence. "Marseillaise" (Renoir).*

Note: Location scenes filmed in Réunion, Antibes, Aix-en-Provence, Lyons, and near Grenoble. Dedicated to Jean Renoir; a clip from Renoir's *La Marseillaise* appears in the film in an exposition of Réunion's history. Paris opening: Jun 1969 as *La sirène du Mississippi*; released in Italy in 1970(?) as *La mia droga si chiama Julie*.

MR. ARKADIN (Spain/Switzerland)

F6.3219

Filmorsa-Cervantes Films-Sevilla Studios. *Dist* Dan Talbot, Cari Releasing Corp. 11 Oct 1962 [New York opening]. Sd; b&w. 35mm. 99 min. [Also reviewed at 93 min.]

A Mercury Production. *Exec Prod* Louis Dolivet. *Dir-Screenplay-Story* Orson Welles. *Dir Photog* Jean Bourgoïn. *Art Dir* Orson Welles. *Set Dsgn* Luis Pérez Espinosa, Gil Parrondo, Francisco Prósper. *Film Ed* Renzo Lucidi. *Mus* Paul Misraki. *Sd* Jacques Lebreton. *Sd Rec* Jacques Carrère. *Asst Dir* José María Ochoa, José Luis de la Serna, Isidoro Martínez Ferry. *Prod Mgr* Michel Boisrond, Juan Solórzano Piñares. *Cost* Orson Welles.

Cast: Orson Welles (*Gregory Arkadin*), Robert Arden (*Guy Van Stratten*), Paola Mori (*Raina*), Michael Redgrave (*Burgomil Trebitsch*), Patricia Medina (*Mily*), Akim Tamiroff (*Jakob Zouk*), Mischa Auer (*The Professor*), Katina Paxinou (*Sophie*), Jack Watling (*Marquis of Rutledge*), Grégoire Aslan (*Bracco*), Peter Van Eyck (*Tadeus*), Suzanne Flon (*Baroness Nagel*), Frédéric O'Brady (*Oskar*), Tamara Shane (*The Blonde*), Gordon Heath (*pianist*).

Additional Cast (Spanish Vers?): Irene López de Heredia (*Sophie*), Amparo Rivelles (*Baroness Nagel*), Mark Sharpe, Gustavo Re, Requena, Gary Land, Emilia Ruiz, Jacinto San Emeterio.