The finest technicians and artists combined to ensure that this Associated British-Pathe tribute to our young, gracious Queen finds its rightful place in screen achievement—as the journey, itself, will be proudly recorded in the annals of history.

Master of the Queen's Musick, Sir Arthur Bliss, composed the special march after which the film is named and Muir Mathieson, as Musical Director, conducted. John Pudney, the distinguished poet and novelist, wrote the commentary which is spoken by a team of voices headed by Edward Ward.

Howard Thomas, the producer, and his Associate, Terry Ashwood, have worked together many times on such important productions. Everyone connected with the finished film—from cameramen to laboratory workers—has combined his own experience and skill to make this picture as outstanding as the journey which inspired it.

LENGTH 4500 ft. approx.

CERT 'U'
SYNOPSIS

WELCOME THE QUEEN!

TWO small children are very excited as they leave London on this bright April morning. They are on their way to meet their parents, who have been away for many a month. No ordinary children these: they are their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles, heir presumptive, and Princess Anne. Soon they will be in Portsmouth, where they will board the new Royal Yacht, Britannia.

On a grey November evening in 1953, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh left England by air on the first stage of their world tour. Within a few hours they had arrived on the sunlit isles of the British West Indies.

After an eventful stay amid the palms and calypso of Jamaica, the Royal Couple were on their way again—this time to exotic Fiji and friendly Tonga, where the highlight of their visit was the open-air feast attended by the entire welcoming population. Boarding s.s. Gothic wearing the floral garlands presented by Queen Salote, they were en route for New Zealand.

In the North and South islands of this loyal Dominion, amid great scenic beauty, Her Majesty witnessed all the facets of New Zealand life, culminating in a visit to the Houses of Parliament, where she exercised her prerogative and formally opened the session— the first time in history that a British reigning monarch has done so.

Then the great tour of Australia, that vast country with its overwhelmingly spontaneous enthusiasm for its sovereign.

Colombo. Here the ceremonial elephants and the Oriental ritual stay in the memory. Uganda—a very different race, but the same loyalty; and in the jungle, the teeming ever-fascinating world of the wild animals.

At the African port of Tobruk the Royal children are re-united with their parents at last and the Britannia, with the Royal Standard flying for the first time, sails proudly through the blue Mediterranean, pausing at Malta, the George Cross island, and the Rock of Gibraltar.

Back at last in the English Channel, the Britannia is escorted as far as the Needles by the Home Fleet, the 'planes of the Fleet Air Arm saluting in a fly-past and submarines surfacing on all sides.

The Britannia arrives at London Bridge and The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh transfer to the Royal Barge. Proudly the barge makes its way up the River Thames, cheered all the way by the Londoner welcoming his Sovereign back from the greatest tour ever undertaken by a reigning monarch.

At Westminster Pier, a historic moment: The Queen and The Duke step ashore, to be met by the greatest in the land, and then in an open carriage they start their triumphant journey through the crowded streets of London.

The scene resembles another, in the not too distant past—Coronation Day—and like that day, this one ends, too, in the appearance of our beloved Queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

THE CREDITS

Produced by HOWARD THOMAS
Associate Producer TERRY ASHWOOD
Production Manager FRED SMITH
The March, Welcome The Queen, composed by SIR ARTHUR BLISS
Additional music by MALCOLM ARNOLD
Conducted by MUIR MATHIESON
Commentary by JOHN PUDNEY
Spoken by EDWARD WARD
Filmed by PATHE CAMERAMEN
in EASTMAN COLOR
Print by TECHNICOLOR
Processed by HUMPHRIES LABORATORIES
Edited by LIONEL HOARE
Sound recording by W. S. BLAND
GEORGE NEWBERRY
Sound R.C.A.
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