

Taza, Son of Cochise

(2-D, 3-D-COLOR)

Beautifully photographed Indian-U. S. Cavalry actioner okay for general runs.

Hollywood, Jan. 19.

Universal-International release of a Ross Hunter production. Stars Rock Hudson, Barbara Rush; features Gregg Palmer, Bart Roberts, Morris Ankrum, Gene Iglesias. Directed by Douglas Sirk. Screenplay, George Zuckerman; story-adaptation, Gerald Drayson Adams; camera, Russell Metty; editor, Milton Caruth; music, Frank Skinner. Previewed Jan. 15, '54. Running time, 79 MINS.

Taza	Rock Hudson
Oona	Barbara Rush
Captain Burnett	Gregg Palmer
Nziche	Bart Roberts
Grey Eagle	Morris Ankrum
Chato	Gene Iglesias
Cy Hegan	Richard Cutting
Geronimo	Ian MacDonald
General Crook	Robert Burton
Sgt. Hamma	Joe Sawyer
Lt. Willis	Lance Fuller
Lt. Richards	Brad Jackson
Skinya	James Van Horn
Kocha	Charles Horvath
Lobo	Robert Hoy
Location Bit	Barbara Burck
Tiswin Charlie	Dan White

Following in the type of outdoor feature UI has found acceptable in general runs, "Taza, Son of Cochise" is a colorful Indian-U.S. Cavalry entry alternating between hot action and passages of almost pastoral quality which can expect okay grosses. Name of Rock Hudson will help it through all situations.

Beautifully lensed in Technicolor, this Ross Hunter production will be released in either 2-D or 3-D, dependant upon wishes of the exhib. In either medium film can stand on its own, effective use being made of the latter to provide some legitimate thrills. The spectacular scenery of Moab, Utah, furnishes a particularly apropos background for unfoldment of the George Zuckerman script, and Douglas Sirk's direction is forceful, aimed at making every scene an eye-filling experience.

This is the story of the great Apache chief's son, who promises at his father's deathbed he will try to keep the peace that Cochise so painstakingly made with the whites. He is opposed here by his younger brother, who attempts to win the tribe over to Geronimo and take to the warpath again. When Geronimo comes to the San Carlos reservation, where Taza captains an Apache police force, for temporary haven, the brother and Geronimo plot a giant break with guns purchased from a renegade trader. They nearly wipe out a column of pursuing cavalry, headed by Gen. Crook, before Taza and his own Apaches show up and restore peace to the territory.

Rock Hudson suffices in action demands of his role of Taza, but character is none too believable. Barbara Rush, co-starring as the daughter of Morris Ankrum, one of Geronimo's followers, is in for romantic purposes and handles part well. Gregg Palmer is strongly cast as a cavalry captain who strikes up a friendship with Taza; Bart Roberts is the fractious brother and Ian MacDonald plays Geronimo with a sneer. Jeff Chandler, who was Cochise in studio's "Battle at Apache Pass," repeats character for the single death-bed scene, without screen credit. Balance of cast is stock.

Russell Metty's color camera work stands out among the technical credits, and Bernard Herzbrun and Emrich Nicholson's art direction catches the flavor intended. Frank Skinner's music score, too, strikes the right note. Whit.