ANGENIEUX ZOOMS IN
Shooting 16mm with ASC Award-Winner Roland Ozzie Smith.

On the set of Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, DP Ozzie Smith prepares the next shot. At his side is an Arri 16SR 3 with an Angenieux 11.5-138mm T2.3 lens.

“35mm look on a 16mm budget...”

Ozzie hadn't worked in 16mm for over 20 years. "It's the biggest challenge I've faced as a cinematographer—getting the saturation, the depth, and the sharpness I require, all the way to the edges of the 16mm frame."

“... all day, every day.”

"In shooting 16mm, I'm putting so much information on a tiny negative that whatever happens in front of the negative makes a huge difference," says Smith. "That's why we use the Angenieux 12X every day."

—I gotta have it."

Smith tested several lenses prior to production. "I was immediately impressed by the resolving power of the Angenieux. We examined the resolution at intermediate focal lengths, and I'd never seen a lens as sharp over the entire zoom range."

“Sharpness is critical...”

On the set, the 11.5-138mm continues to exceed Smith's expectations. "At T2.3 the lens is fast enough to use on night exteriors—and it's as sharp wide open as it is stopped down."

“I love the range...”

"Having all the focal lengths from 11.5 to 138mm is a big advantage when shooting a series like Dr. Quinn. It gives me a lot of latitude."

“... day after day.”

Amid the rigors of location shooting in the dust and dirt of a western set, the Angenieux 11.5-138mm has proven rugged and dependable. Says Ozzie, "You can make anything work for a day—but to have it last through the battle and still perform flawlessly is what's important."

“The right lens...”

So what's the result of Roland Ozzie Smith's endeavor to coax a 35mm look from 16mm film? "Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography" reads the award presented to him by the ASC for his work on Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman. And how important is the Angenieux 11.5-138 to capturing Ozzie's vision for the series? "Without the right lens, I couldn't have gotten the look I wanted."

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Set in an 1880’s Colorado mining town, the popular prime time series Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman is currently in its third season of production.