



The Australian Museum of Motion Picture Technology (Inc) NEWSLETTER

Edition Six

January 2006

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEMBERS!

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY JAN 29th 2006 at 10am

Members are advised a combined **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING** and **SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER** of THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURE TECHNOLOGY (Inc.) and AMMPT WESTERN REGION BRANCH is scheduled to be held at the **PORT CINEMA**, Fremantle on **SUNDAY JANUARY 29th 2006 at 10am**

The meeting business will include consideration of two **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS** which are;

1. "The Association amend its Constitution to reflect changes recommended by the Department of Consumer Affairs to separate the national identity and committee from the regional branches of the organization and to incorporate new structures and procedures deemed advisable from information obtained during the Coordinator's recent interstate fact finding assignment."
2. "AMMPT Western Region adopt a proposed Constitution to accommodate and limited to regional operations and procedures"

Copies of the proposed Constitutions are available for inspection from both the National and Regional Secretary, and will

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Items	Page
AMMPT Display at the Discovery Centre	2
NICKEL QUEEN at the Port Cinema	2
Princess Theatre in Fremantle	3
Members Profile on Roy Mudge	4 & 5
Major public AMMPT exhibition in Perth now in early planning stage	6
PORT CINEMA Screening	7

also be available for scrutiny at the Port cinema prior to the meeting.

With the proposed separate incorporation of each regional branch, the existing Constitution has to be refined to relate only to the duties and structure of the national entity, retaining the existing tax concessions and other registrations. It will be necessary for each region to formally adopt a common generic Constitution which relates only to regional structure and procedures.

Other Meeting business :

1. To receive a detailed **coordinator's report** on the outcomes of his recent interstate and overseas trip including appointments with State and Federal museum curators, film industry organizations and funding bodies. Also regional moves towards establishing local branches and meetings with person involved in assisting with AMMPT Western Region projects.
2. **Treasurers Report**
3. Re-organization of **Committee Structure**, with appointment of Registrar.
4. Details of **projects already initiated or proposed** for later in the year and beyond.
5. Other business as to be listed on Agenda prior to the meeting.

Social:

The meeting is scheduled to **conclude on or before mid day**, after which some take-away **food, snacks, coffees etc** will be provided. Members may bring other refreshments if they so desire. It is anticipated social interaction between members will engender a stronger team spirit which will be required for proposed projects later in the year.



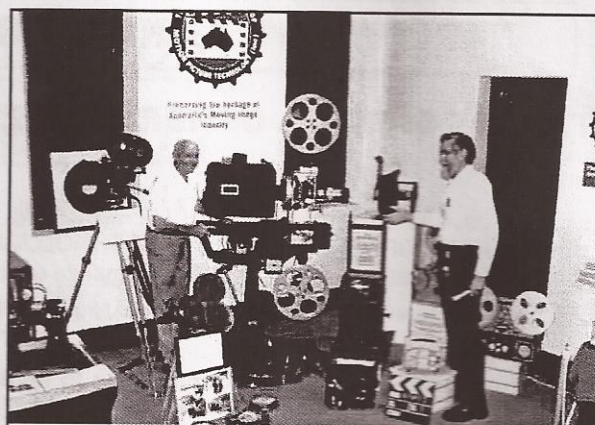
Please Note: This is **not a public event or screening**. Members or prospective Members only. To facilitate catering arrangements **EVERY MEMBER** is requested to respond to the Regional Secretary and **confirm their intended attendance or otherwise**. Interstate Members need not respond.

AMMPT display at Discovery Centre gets results

Our first attempt at developing a local public profile with a display of Members and donated items at Richard Rennie's Light and Sound Discovery Centre at the W.A. Museum's History galleries in Fremantle is already proving its worth. The exhibition which was coordinated for AMMPT by member Ron Tutt has created a lot of interest and drawn feedback from unexpected quarters. An example was a phone call received from Mr. Ken Blyth, now living at a retirement village in Mosman Park. Ken related that when he was demobbed in 1945 from the 2nd world war, being a Sydney resident he took on the job as manager of a motion picture processing laboratory, Cinecraft labs, on the corner of South and Reddy Streets in Rushcutters Bay. The lab was owned by a Mr. Hayward C. Parish. Other names that were mentioned were Noel Monkton, a producer of silent films trading as Barrier Reef docs, Arthur Higgins, Harmour & Heath projectors and precision engineers, etc. etc. "He also recalled regular bonfires of nitrate films on a block nearby as the lab disposed of its unwanted negatives etc" This is the sort of information that should be recorded and plans are being made to do so. Unfortunately the details would be of most interest to the Eastern region branch as they would obviously be able to ask more pertinent questions prompted by local knowledge of other operators in the industry over there at that time. Other items to emerge as a result of the display was the donation of a toy 35mm hand cranked projector, ALEF brand, made in Germany in 1931. This item and accompanying film has been added to our collection.



AMMPT Display at the DISCOVERY CENTRE in FREMANTLE



Ron Tutt and Richard Rennie

NICKLE QUEEN at the PORT CINEMA



"Nickel Queen" the Western Australia made film about the nickel boom of the late 70's was screened at the Port Cinema on Saturday the 19th of November at a Special Matinee. The film which starred Goochie Withers and John Laws, was produced and directed by John McCallum in 1971 and featured a host of local Perth actors and television identities.

The then premier of WA Sir David Brand and future premier Sir Charles Court along with Senator Ross Lightfoot were featured.

The film had not been shown in Perth for over 30 years and the screening created quite a lot of interest in the media with several newspaper features and an item on the ABC television program "Stateline". Various guests at the screening were actors and crew members who were associated with the making of the film.

The programme consisted of old newsreels, cartoons and trailers which were, with the film "Nickel Queen", most appreciated by the large audience with a round of applause at the end of the programme. A lucky member of the audience was Sherry Hastie who won the door prize of a overnight stay at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel in Perth which was featured in the film. All in the audience were looking forward to the next film at the Port Cinema by AMMPT.



John Marsden with winners Sherry and Barry Hastie

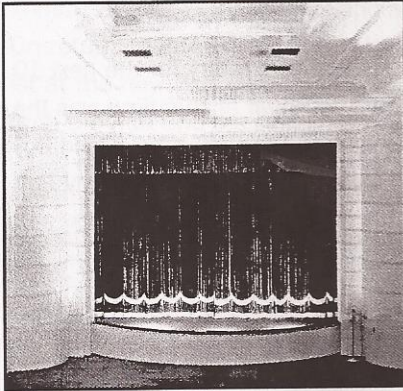
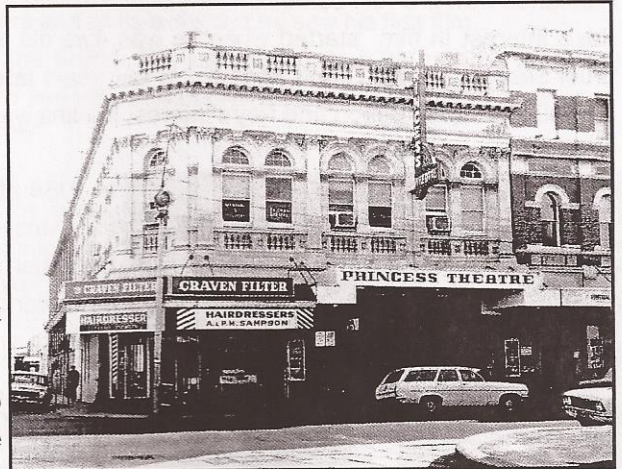
PRINCESS THEATRE - FREMANTLE

On the corner of Market and Leake street Fremantle an old warehouse was demolished to make way for West's Princess Theatre which opened on the 21st of December 1912.

The Princess was the first purpose built theatre in the suburban Area. Seating 1850 people the new theatre was managed by Thomas Coombe till 1914 when West's opened another theatre in Subiaco and transferred their operations there.

Fullers Vaudeville then operated the Princess for some time, till in March 1917 Coombe took over the Theatre in his own right and brought it with him into the Union Theatres chain.

The Theatre had a small orchestra and a photoplayer organ to accompany the silent films. Sound was introduced to the theatre in August 1929 when universal bases and a Western



Electric Sound System was installed for the "The Jazz Singer".

Due to a mix up in delivery the sound system that was intended for the Prince of Wales Theatre in Perth finished up at the Princess and the Perth Theatre got the Fremantle system. When the depression hit Australia in the early 30's Union Theatres quit operations in Western Australia and in 1935 the Princess was taken over by the Grand Theatre Company.

In 1940 William Leighton was employed to design extensive renovations which included a brand new proscenium, stalls foyer, toilets and a new entrance to the theatre from Market street. The theatre was also lit entirely by neon tubing, these were the only alterations in the life of the

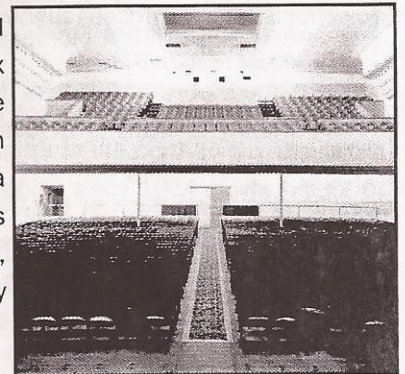
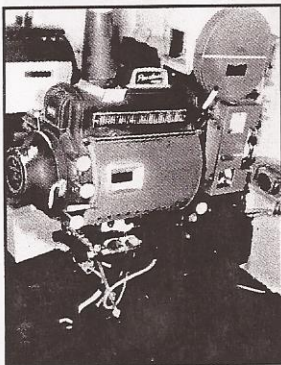
Theatre. In 1954 the Princess along with the Piccadilly in Perth installed Paramount's widescreen system Vista Vision. In September 1957 the Simplex Projectors were replaced with Kalee 21's still retaining the universal bases and the sound system was changed to a modern Westrex System. The Grand Theatre in Perth was also to get kalee 21's and varamorph cinemascope lenses but due to a structural problem in the Grand bio box the varamorphs

could not be fitted and were transferred to the Princess, which resulted with the best Cinemascope picture in any theatre in Western Australia.

The Princess screened continuously Monday to Saturday

and when Television commenced in Western Australia in October 1959 reduced to 2 shows a day and by 1964 was surviving on 6 nights and 1 matinee. On the 26th of June 1969 the doors finally closed with an Elvis Presley Double "Roustabout" and "Paradise Hawaiian Style" thus ending 57 years of entertainment in Fremantle. The building was sold to a car repairer and gutted for use as a workshop. It has also been used as a market and an ice cream manufacturing company and is currently in use as a furniture warehouse. The

basic structure of the theatre remains including the balcony, bio box and the main ceiling while the entrance in Market street was recently gutted and used as a fresh food shop. After 93 years the building is slowly deteriorating and unless some major work is done shortly an historic building of Fremantle will be lost for ever.

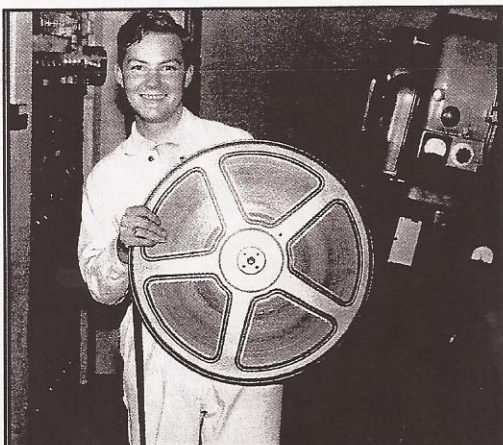




Member Profile on ROY MUDGE

On the 28th of February 2004 family and friends gathered at Roy's Home Cinema for a screening of 'Charade' which celebrated 40yrs to the day when Roy commenced his motion picture career in 1964 at the Princess Theatre in Fremantle with the very same film.

Roy's interest in film started when he was 4yrs old in 1952 when his parents took him to a screening of the "The Cruel Sea" at Perth's Grand Theatre, a few years later the family had permanent seats on Saturday night's at the Mayfair Theatre in Bicton and Roy's interest in films was sealed.



17yrs old Roy at the Theatre Royal with a 70mm spool of "My Fair Lady"

In 1964 after leaving John Curtin High School in Fremantle Roy started at the Princess theatre as a assistant Projectionist he later transferred to the other side of Fremantle to the Oriana Theatre. Roy was thrilled to have worked at these theatres as he had often attended movies at both of them and never dreamed at the time that he would eventually work in them. In 1965 Roy was transferred to the Piccadilly Theatre in Perth for 6 weeks then moved down to the Grand Theatre, he then moved back and forth between the two for the next few months before being transferred to the Theatre Royal and "My Fair Lady".

Roy and "My Fair Lady" stayed together for 2 shows a day for the next 10 months. The final performance for Roy at the Royal at this time was the 'Vice Regal Premiere' of "The Fall Of The Roman Empire" after which Roy was transferred back to the Piccadilly for a return season of "My Fair

Lady" for 8 weeks. Roy then went back to Fremantle and the Princess Theatre for his first job as a Projectionist and to his horror his first film was "My Fair Lady".

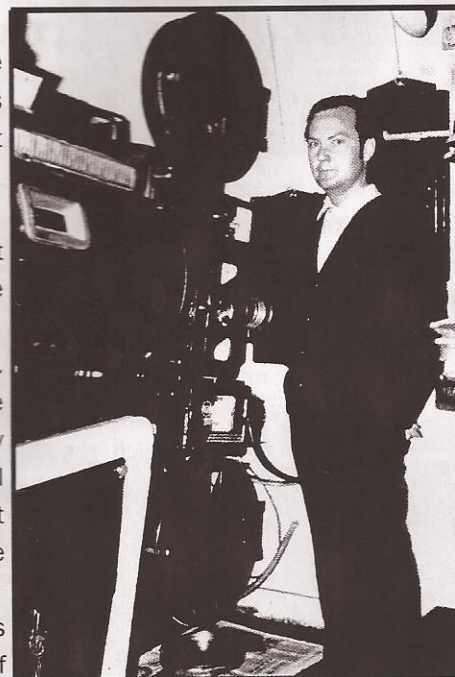
After 2 weeks Roy was transferred back to Perth where he remained for the next 12 months moving between the Royal, Grand and Piccadilly Theatres before being transferred back to Fremantle again as the permanent Projectionist at the Princess theatre.

Roy remained at the Princess for the next 10 months before jumping at the opportunity to transfer across to his beloved Oriana Theatre when the projectionist there resigned.

Roy was glad to be back at the Oriana as it was always his favourite theatre. He previously spent 14 happy months there as an assistant under Ernie Thompson who passed on all his knowledge to Roy. Within weeks of Roy commencing as the Projectionist at the Oriana plans were drawn up to install a big giant screen forward of the old proscenium. On the 4th of August 1968 the Theatre celebrated its 30th Anniversary with the installation of the new screen.

In 1969 Roy moved on to be the relieving Projectionist in the Drive-Ins before moving back fulltime to the Grand Theatre. In 1970 after 5yrs of employment with City Theatres Roy left to work for Hoyts as chief of staff at the Ambassadors Theatre. After 6 months at Hoyts Roy left and rejoined City Theatres as projectionist at the Skyline Drive-In. Roy stayed at the Skyline for 12 months before being transferred to the Theatre Royal.

Roy was promoted to Assistant Manager under Norm Garner at the Piccadilly Theatre but not before he did one final 4 week job as projectionist at the Oriana Theatre prior to its close and subsequent demolition in 1971 which devastated Roy.



Roy at the Oriana prior to its closer in 1971



Continuing from Page Four

Member Profile on ROY MUDGE



Roy Mudge with managers, Lester Brown, Roy McPherson, Allan Sinclair with Bunnie Brooke and Pat McDonald at the Premiere of "Number 96" at the Piccadilly Theatre.

Roy was appointed manager of the Grand Theatre in 1972 where 20yrs earlier as a 4yr old he saw his first film.

While at the Grand Roy celebrated its 57th birthday and was involved in various promotions such as "Charlotte's Web" and "Number 96"

In 1974 Roy installed 4 track magnetic sound and assisted in the installation of sensurround sound for the season of "Earthquake" at the Grand.

To further his career Roy left Australia for England and joined the

Rank Organisation as Assistant Manager at the Odeon Marble Arch in the west end of London. Among the many celebrities he met were the ex King and Queen of Greece, Tommy Steele, Terry Thomas and Robin Askwith.

On returning to Australia Roy rejoined City Theatres in time to become Opening Projectionist at the new Port Cinema in Fremantle in December 1976 and became the manager of both the Port and the Daleline Drive-In in Armadale in 1980 for the next two years.

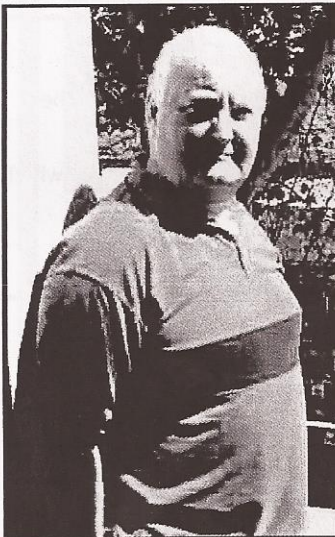
Roy left the city to work in Geraldton at both the local Drive-In and Radio Theatre as Manager Operator for three years. In 1987 Roy returned to Perth and started working for Peter Thomson at the Capri Cinema and then moved to the new Essex Street Cinemas in Fremantle with Peter. At the opening of Queensgate Cinemas in 1990 Roy transferred across as one of the Projection Team.

In 1991 Roy became the Chief Projectionist at the new Rockingham Cinema Complex. In 2000 Coastal Cinemas sold out to Hoyts Theatres where Roy still remains as the senior projectionist.

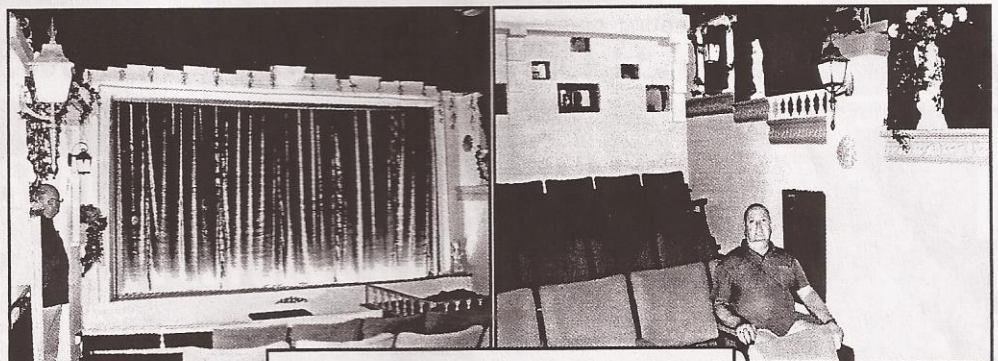
In 1982 Roy formed R.G.M. Theatres and until 2002 toured around screening films in Town halls and Drive-In's from as far a field as Dongara in the north to Gnowangerup in the south. Roy has been collecting Cinema Memorabilia since 1964 of which a lot of it has been installed in his 36 seater Home Cinema.



Roy Mudge with Assistant Manager Queenie Lenon and film star Robin Askwith at the Odeon Marble arch

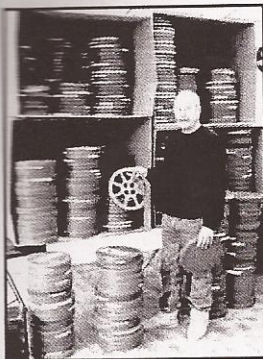


Roy Mudge in 2005



Roy's Home Cinema called "Princess Theatre"

In February 2006 it will be Roy's 42nd anniversary and he is already looking forward to his 50th. Throughout Roy's long career his love of movies has never ceased and his appointment as AMMPT curator of exhibition western region is well deserved.



BUY - SELL - SWAP

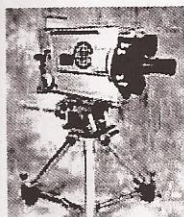


AMMPT has acquired a large quantity of used (but very good condition) Tuscan 35mm 1200 ft film cans, and 16mm 800ft, 1200ft and 1600ft film reels and cans \$1.00 each (min 10 pcs)

Contact AMMPT member GRAHAM LACEY on 9275 65559 to arrange for payment and personal pick-up.

Packing and delivery can be arranged but at prior cost and prepayment additional to purchase price. FIRST IN, BEST DRESSED!! Phone Graham now!.

Major public AMMPT exhibition in Perth now in early planning stage.



Further to the brief mention on the last edition, we are now pleased to report that definite planning is now under way for our first major exhibition in Perth. The main theme of the display is to commemorate 50 years of public television broadcasting in Australia by focusing on the reliance on motion picture film to provide all the news and programme material in those early years. Also the role of public visual entertainment in the days before TV. It will also enable us to showcase the history of the early Perth cinemas, as well as the technology used at the time, including the traveling picture showmen and women. We already have the support of the three original commercial TV stations in Perth, TVW7, ABW2 and STW9 and of the Office of Seniors Interests. The two week display at the undercroft of the newly refurbished Perth Town Hall is planned to run from October 21st to November 5th. The event will be incorporated in Seniors week promotion. Support from other areas is also anticipated.

Now here is the crunch - we need the support of our own Members who have been waiting patiently over the past year for something to happen in which they can be involved. Now is your chance. We are forming a working group from within our membership and others in the TV industry to start planning for the event. Obviously assistance will be required to create and bump in the displays, volunteers to attend the exhibition on a roster system to inform the public of the exhibits etc. and assistance to bump out at the end of the show. A feedback form will be sent to all members in the next few weeks asking how they can assist with this and other future initiatives. While it is appreciated some have only joined AMMPT out of curiosity to see what is going on, hopefully there will be those who are prepared to contribute their personal effort to the cause. If you are genuine in your desire to preserve the memories and the memorabilia of those who went before us in our industry by drawing public attention to what they have achieved, here is the chance.



AMMPT member Lindsay "Time Traveller" Cox

The Salvation Army's Territorial Archivist in Melbourne emerges from a time warp of 100 years, the days and the location when the Australian Film Industry was born.

Details in the next issue, together with a round-up of events during the recent interstate trip which included meeting persons interested in establishing regional branches.

< Lindsay Cox



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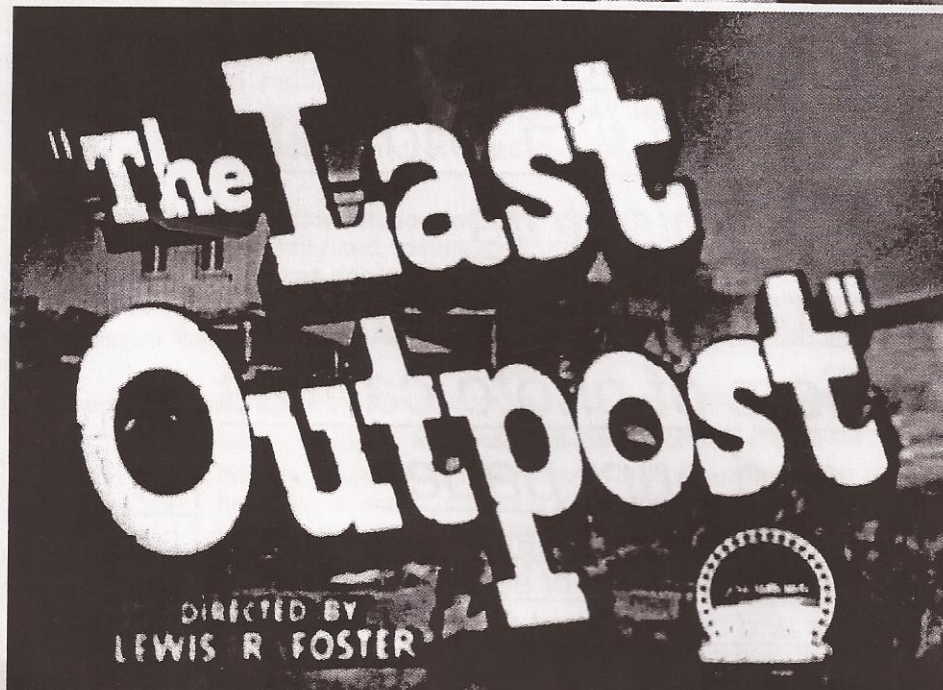


National Treasurer KEITH COOTE 08 9259 0459 - National Secretary EDDIE MILLS 08 9447 4531
Regional Secretary JOHN MARSDEN 08 9581 7565 - Western Region Curator of Exhibition ROY MUDGE 08 9419 1794

PORT CINEMA

ADELAIDE STREET - FREMANTLE
(OP ST PATRICKS CHURCH)

The Australian Museum of Motion Picture Technology (inc)
Presents



THE BIG
BOX-OFFICE
SMASH HIT
OF THE
50's

A Movie for the
WHOLE
FAMILY!

(G)

Plus NEWSREEL - CARTOON - SHORT FEATURETTE

SPECIAL SATURDAY MATINEE

11th February at 1.30pm

All Day Parking at WESTGATE CAR PARK rear of the PORT CINEMA

MEMBERS \$5.00 A DOUBLE!
GUEST AND SINGLE TICKETS \$5.00 EACH.
PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE BOX OFFICE!