

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

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CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN - MAY

The next Classics of the Silver Screen will be on Monday 24th of May at the Cygnet Cinema Como and will commence at 12:00 noon.

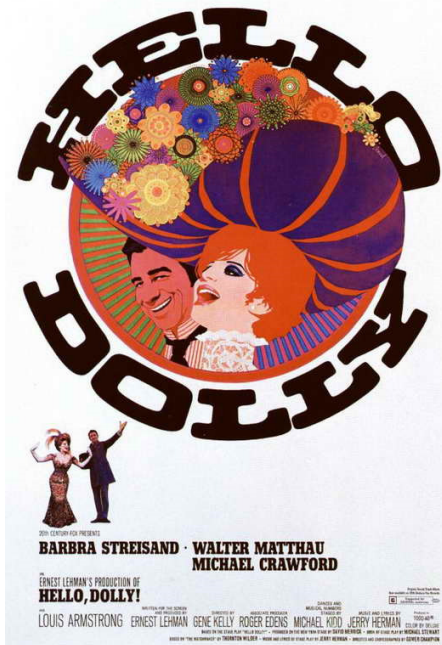
The movie is “Hello Dolly”, starring Barbra Streisand, Walter Matthau and Michael Crawford.

“Hello Dolly” is the charming tale of Dolly Levi, a strong-willed matchmaker who travels

to Yonkers, New York in order to find a match for the miserly

“well-known unmarried half-a-millionaire” Horace Vandergelder. In doing so, she convinces his niece, his niece’s intended and Horace’s two clerks to travel to New York.

The musical score was by Jerry Herman, and Michael Kidd was the choreographer. Academy award winner Ernest Lehman provided the screenplay and was the producer and legendary Gene Kelly was the director. Hello Dolly was filmed in Todd AO and won three Academy Awards.



CINEMA HISTORY

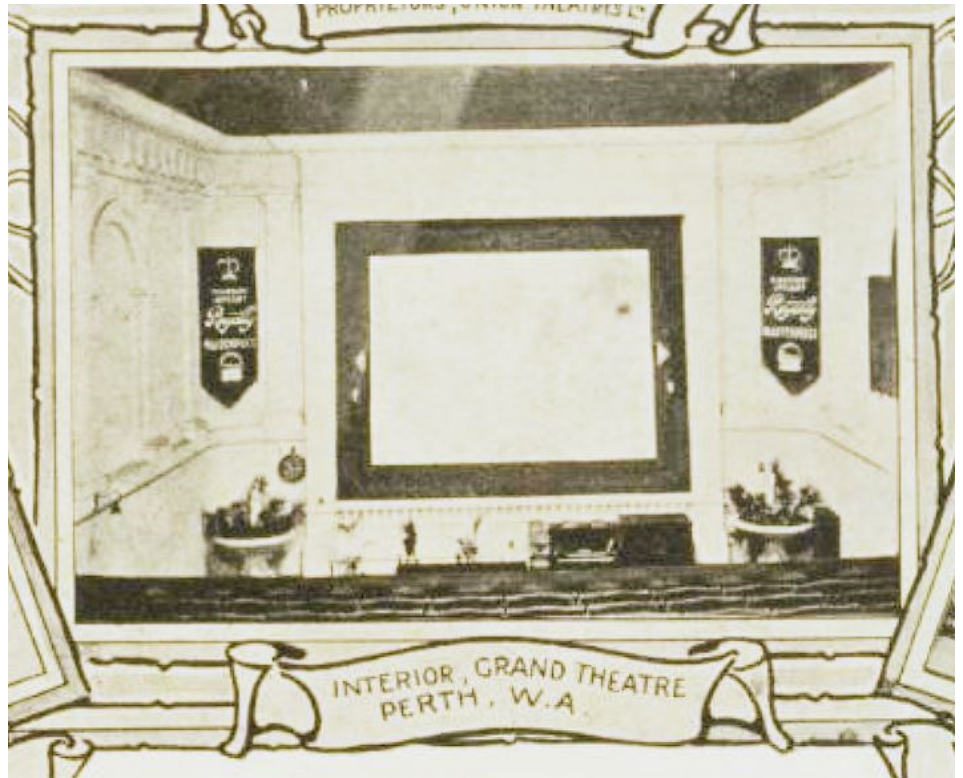
The Majestic and Grand Cinemas in Perth

The Perth Majestic Theatre opened on 21st December 1916 in Hay Street with accommodation for nearly one thousand people. The Majestic was in turn replaced on the same site by the Plaza Theatre in 1937 as part of the Plaza Arcade development. Interestingly the Organ Society of Western Australia website lists the Majestic Theatre housing a Cremona Photoplayer constructed by the Marquette Piano Company. Photoplayers were often installed in theatre orchestra pits and unlike theatre organs the pipework and percussions were not in a chamber but adjacent to the keyboard in the pit in a case. Traditionally they were operated by a roll-player. On January 20th 1916 The Grand Theatre opened in Murray Street with space for 1100 patrons.

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The Grand also had a Photoplayer and in the photo can clearly be seen the Photoplayer and its cabinet at the front of the house under the screen. The screen itself was at that time painted on the back wall of the auditorium. In latter years curtains and a hung screen were installed. It has been surmised that this instrument is a Wurlitzer photoplayer since Union Theatres managed both the Princess Theatre in Fremantle, which had a Wurlitzer photoplayer installed in 1915, and the Grand Theatre in Perth.



Article by John Fuhrmann

TV HISTORY

The last programme to air on Channel Seven on opening night was Perry Mason. The show was an American legal drama series originally broadcast on CBS television from September 21, 1957, to May 22, 1966.

The title character, portrayed by Raymond Burr, is a fictional Los Angeles criminal-defence lawyer who originally appeared in detective fiction by Erle Stanley Gardner.

Perry Mason was Hollywood's first weekly one-hour series filmed for television, and remains one of the longest-running and most successful legal-themed television series.

Barbara Hale was Mason's secretary Della Street and William Hopper played private investigator Paul Drake. Rounding out the cast was Ray Collins who was Homicide Detective Lt. Tragg and District Attorney Hamilton Burger played by William Talman.



Filming took place on stage 8 at the 20th Century-Fox studios and CBS Studio Center, using 35mm black & white film and a one camera setup. The show ran for nine seasons with a total of 271 episodes. The New Perry Mason, a 1973 revival of the series with a different cast, was poorly received and ran for 15 episodes.

In 1985, the first in a successful series of 30 Perry Mason television films aired on NBC, with Burr reprising the role of Mason in 26 of them before his death in 1993.