

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Grand Cygnet Cinema will be temporarily closing for a few months from Tuesday 20th July to have the roof replaced. Therefore the screening of “Hotel” on Monday 19th July will be the final Classics of the Silver Screen for 2021. It is anticipated that the Cygnet will reopen in December so we hope to recommence our screening program as usual in February 2022.

Agnes Foyster—President AMMPT Western Region (Inc.)

CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN - JULY

The next Classics of the Silver Screen at the Cygnet Cinema Preston Street Como will be “Hotel”. The story takes place at a hotel in New Orleans where the hotel manager involves himself in the proposals from three potential buyers of the property. He also takes a romantic interest in the beautiful French mistress of one of the bidders and deals with a wide range of routine problems, including a faulty elevator.



“Hotel” is a 1967 American Technicolor film adaptation of the 1965 novel of the same name written by Arthur Hailey.

The film stars Rod Taylor, Catherine Spaak, Karl Malden, Kevin McCarthy, Michael Rennie, Merle Oberon and Melvyn Douglas. It is directed by Richard Quine.

“Hotel” screens on Monday 19th July commencing at 12:00 noon.

CINEMA HISTORY - THE CAPITOL

From it's opening on May 4th 1929 The Capitol Theatre in William Street Perth presented stage productions preceding the film presentations. Harry Cross was the Director of Music, the Presentation Manager was J.J. Collins and Miss Leah Miller was the Ballet Mistress.

Dan Chaloner was the drummer in the Capitol orchestra of 20 players under the baton of Harry Cross with Harry's wife the pianist when they played for more than six months every night after the Capitol opened. After sound movies arrived the use of orchestras and stage presentations was dispensed with.

The photo above right shows part of a stage presentation featuring the Capitol orchestra conducted by Harry Cross and the Leah Miller Ballet with Dan Chaloner on drums and Mrs Harry Cross on piano.



CINEMAS OF YESTERYEAR

In 1911, in Fitzgerald Street Geraldton, a picture hall was built and called King's Theatre. Alfred Wheat arrived in Geraldton in 1921 to manage the picture business. Alf had been a travelling picture showman in the Great Southern Region of WA before going to the War in 1915. Over the next ten years, he bought out the syndicate that owned the hall and called it Radio Pictures.



On Friday 9th April 1937 a new Radio Theatre on the corner of Fitzgerald Street and Marine Terrace opened. Designed by Samuel Rosenthal and built by Richard Cardilini, it cost 12,500 pounds, and was leased to Mr A.G. Wheat.

Movie screenings at the King's Theatre ended when Radio Theatre was built. The old building was absorbed into the motor vehicle business of the Wheat family.

The new building comprised the theatre, a service station, motor show rooms, and two shops, whilst

on the upper story there were four modern flats. The theatre had a stalls and lounge and seated nine hundred people, there was also full stage facilities to enable use for live shows.

In 1951 Alf Wheat sold the business to Goldfields Pictures who continued screening in the theatre until 1971.

The building then became an indoor market when in the early eighties a syndicate headed by local man Dan Cunningham reopened the cinema before it closed again soon after its 50th birthday in 1988. The theatre then became a Potters House Church. As of today the theatre is empty and behind it the old King's Theatre of 1911 still stands. In 1990 the building was classified by the National Trust.

FILMS SCREENING IN PERTH 15 JUNE 1954

Hoyts Ambassadors "Beneath The 12- Mile Reef"

Hoyts Plaza

"Way Of a Gaucho"

Grand

"Pygmalion"

Theatre Royal

"Torpedo Alley"

Piccadilly

"Walking My Baby Back Home"

Metro

"Take The High Ground"

