



The Lyceum Theatre started out life as a purpose-built cinema - opening on 10th April, 1909 with **Charlotte Corday** and advertised as being 'under the Direction of Mr. C. E. King'. The theatre was the creation of Scottish-born entrepreneur, Edward McGregor. The design of the theatre was prepared by Mr. King, of King's Picturescope Company. In 1912 McGregor struck a deal with John H. Tait (of J. & N. Tait), E.J. Carroll and Harold Ashton (*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Qld., - Thursday, 16th May, 1912, page

7) - to acquire Mr. King's lease, associated goodwill and the Lyceum's plant along with a Queen Street property (which would be converted into a continuous picture theatre). McGregor retained ownership of the theatre. When Harry Borradaile terminated his tenancy of the Palace Gardens Theatre in Brisbane in 1921 he took over as sole lessee of the Lyceum Theatre and renamed the theatre the Elite. The Theatre retained this name until March, 1927, when the theatre was remodelled and reverted back to its original name. At this time, the Lyceum was under the direction of George B. Dean. The first "Talkie" was **Speakeasy** - which commenced on Saturday, the 3rd August, 1929. Mr. Edward McGregor - still sole proprietor of the Lyceum Theatre passed away on the 3rd December, 1939, age 77 years. Subsequently, the theatre remained the property of the estate and family of Edward McGregor. Greater Union Theatres then purchased the theatre in 1963 and in 1965 the Lyceum was extensively remodelled. In its place, a new, purpose-built cinema was built; dispensing with the Circle of the earlier Lyceum/Elite Theatre. The George's first film on the Victoria 8 projectors was **The Fall of the Roman Empire** - which was given a special charity premiere on Wednesday, 15th September, 1965. The George screened numerous 70mm films, amongst which were seven films that had **Cinerama** seasons in Sydney and Melbourne - including **It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World**, **The Greatest Story Ever Told**, **The Hallelujah Trail**, **Battle of the Bulge**, **Grand Prix**, **2001: A Space Odyssey** and **Ice Station Zebra**. Dendy Cinemas operated the cinema from 1994 - converting the George into a twin cinema. In 2010, the theatre was operated by an independent exhibitor and in 2018, the theatre was stripped of its furnishings and is currently a Hillsong Church.

70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
The Fall of the Roman Empire	16/09/65	08/12/65	12
Lord Jim	10/12/65	03/03/66	12
Circus World	04/03/66	28/04/66	8
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World	29/04/66	11/08/66	15
Genghis Khan	12/08/66	15/09/66	5
The Great Race	16/09/66	02/03/67	24
The Professionals	03/03/67	19/04/67	7
The Heroes of Telemark	20/04/67	01/06/67	6
The Greatest Story Ever Told	02/06/67	27/07/67	8
Casino Royale	28/07/67	05/10/67	10
The Hallelujah Trail	06/10/67	25/10/67	3
Is Paris Burning	27/10/67	09/11/67	2
Battle of the Bulge	01/12/67	11/01/68	6
Grand Prix	12/01/68	29/02/68	7
Gone with the Wind - First Time Brisbane 70mm	03/05/68	04/07/68	9
2001: A Space Odyssey	02/08/68	12/09/68	6
Far From the Madding Crowd	13/09/68	07/11/68	8
Guns for San Sebastian	08/11/68	21/11/68	2
Oliver!	11/12/68	10/04/69	17
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers - First Time Brisbane 70mm	21/08/69	11/09/69	3
Ben-Hur - First Time Brisbane 70mm	11/04/69	01/05/69	3
Ice Station Zebra	02/05/69	05/06/69	5
Mackenna's Gold	06/06/69	24/07/69	7
Spartacus - First Time Brisbane 70mm	25/07/69	21/08/69	4
Those Daring Young Men in their Jaunty Jalopies	12/09/69	13/11/69	9
Castle Keep	14/11/69	11/12/69	4
Winning	12/12/69	12/03/70	13
Paint Your Wagon - not advertised in 70mm	13/03/70	20/08/70	23
Darling Lili - not advertised in 70mm	18/12/70	08/04/71	16
El Condor	07/05/71	10/06/71	5
Le Mans - not advertised in 70mm	29/10/71	30/12/71	9
Jesus Christ Superstar	21/12/73	11/04/74	16
Ben-Hur - reissue	13/12/74	26/12/74	2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - Tabloid advertisement for **The Fall of the Roman Empire** sourced from the Brisbane Courier Mail microfiche held at the New South Wales state library.



GEORGE BRISBANE WIDESCREEN TIMELINE

**PREMIERED 70MM
THE FALL OF THE ROMAN
EMPIRE
15th September 1965**



GEORGE CINEMA
346 George Street, Brisbane

OPENED
10th April 1909
as the, LYCEUM THEATRE

RENAMED
GEORGE CINEMA
15th September 1965