



The Astra Theatre was located at 32 Macquarie Street, in the suburb of Parramatta. The cinema fell within Sydney's greater metropolitan area. It opened on the 21st November, 1935 with the double bill, **Transatlantic Merry-Go-Round** and **Mr. Dynamite**. Initially an independent theatre, and later in a chain of theatres managed by Western Suburbs Cinemas Ltd., the Astra and neighbouring Civic and Roxy Theatres at Parramatta first appeared under the Hoyts banner on the 12th June, 1950. It is worthwhile noting that in June 1950 there

were 102 suburban theatres operating in Sydney. Only four of these were later equipped to present 70mm. These were the Astra at Parramatta, which was equipped during the era of the Reserved Seating Engagement [1958 to 1972] and still later, the Cremorne Orpheum, Double Bay Vogue [which became Village Twin Double Bay] and the Randwick Ritz. After the installation of 70mm at the Royal Newcastle in 1962, the Astra Parramatta became the first (and for many years, only) suburban cinema in Sydney and 11th theatre in Australia equipped for 70mm presentation. The theatre's first 70mm release was **South Pacific**, which opened on the 22nd August 1962. Equipped with Cinemecanica Victoria X projectors, the longest 70mm season during the Roadshow Engagement era was **The Sound of Music**; opening on the 10th October, 1968 and running for 18 weeks. After the Roxy Parramatta was tripled [reopening on the 27th August 1976 with **Sky Riders**, **The Missouri Breaks** and **Grizzly**], the Astra reverted to second run double features and weekends only. In 1983 the Astra was refurbished by Hoyts for the 35mm season of **Return of the Jedi** and in 1985 the theatre was acquired by Greater Union, with **Back to the Future** as its first attraction. The Astra closed after the season of **Top Gun** on the 3rd September, 1986 and was demolished prior to construction of Greater Union's triple multiplex, which opened on 17th December, 1987.

Please Note - It has not been possible to confirm whether all the tabled film titles, were screened in 70mm at the Astra Parramatta. Our research for **Australia in 70mm** has found those film titles opening dates in BLUE were not advertised in 70mm. Accordingly, the film titles and season details will remain listed until confirmed either way.

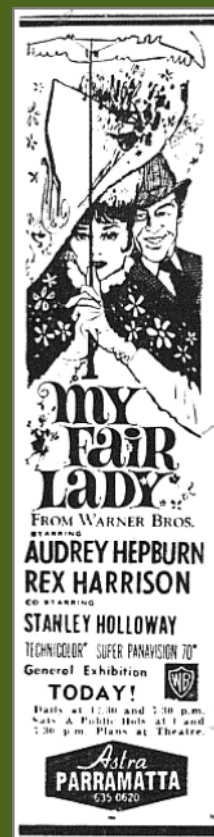
70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
South Pacific	23/08/62	10/10/62	7
South Pacific - <i>reissue</i>	10/01/63	23/01/63	2
Spartacus	24/01/63	13/02/63	3
Exodus	29/08/63	04/09/63	1
EL CID	12/09/63	25/09/63	2
West Side Story	31/10/63	27/11/63	4
Barabbas	25/06/64	01/07/64	1
Oklahoma!	09/07/64	15/07/64	1
55 Days at Peking	19/11/64	02/12/64	2
Cleopatra	20/05/65	16/06/65	4
Lawrence of Arabia	08/07/65	28/07/65	3
Cleopatra - <i>reissue</i>	29/07/65	04/08/65	1
The Long Ship <i>plus</i> Delayed Flight	05/08/65	11/08/65	1
In Harm's Way	31/03/66	06/04/66	1
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World	02/06/66	08/06/66	1
Genghis Khan	09/06/66	15/06/66	1
Circus World	14/07/66	20/07/66	1
Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines	01/12/66	21/12/66	3
The Greatest Story Ever Told	05/01/67	25/01/67	3
The Greatest Story Ever Told - <i>reissue</i>	16/03/67	22/03/67	1
The Great Race	23/03/67	19/04/67	4
The Agony and the Ecstasy	20/04/67	03/05/67	2
My Fair Lady	08/06/67	26/07/67	7
Battle of the Bulge	03/08/67	16/08/67	2
The Professionals <i>plus</i> Operational Camel	31/08/67	06/09/67	1
Gone with the Wind	28/09/67	01/11/67	5
Khartoum	02/11/67	15/11/67	2
The Bible ... In the Beginning	16/11/67	06/12/67	3
The Sand Pebbles	07/12/67	20/12/67	2
Lost Command <i>plus</i> Jailbreakers	08/02/68	14/02/68	1
Doctor Zhivago	14/03/68	05/06/68	12
Grand Prix	06/06/68	25/06/68	3
Far from the Madding Crowd	18/07/68	07/08/68	3



ASTRA PARRAMATTA
SOUTH PACIFIC
23rd August 1962



MY FAIR LADY
8th June 1967



ASTRA PARRAMATTA
 32 Macquarie Street, Parramatta
 OPENED
 21st November 1935

70MM OPENINGS - Continue	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
Doctor Dolittle	22/08/68	18/09/68	4
The Sound of Music	10/10/68	12/02/69	18
Camelot	13/02/69	26/03/69	6
Spartacus - <i>reissue</i>	15/05/69	21/05/69	1
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World - - <i>reissue</i>	03/07/69	09/07/69	1
Star!	16/10/69	05/11/69	3
Mackenna's Gold	06/11/69	12/11/69	1
Custer of the West	13/11/69	19/11/69	1
West Side Story - <i>reissue</i>	20/11/69	10/12/69	3
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	11/12/69	24/12/69	2
Around the World in 80 Days - <i>First Time Parramatta in 70mm</i>	27/12/69	28/01/70	5
Funny Girl	02/04/70	10/06/70	10
The Lion in Winter	11/06/70	24/06/70	2
The Jolson Story - <i>First Time Parramatta in 70mm</i>	02/07/70	15/07/70	2
Hello, Dolly!	16/07/70	12/08/70	4
Sweet Charity	13/08/70	19/08/70	1
Marooned	27/08/70	16/09/70	3
Patton	17/09/70	23/09/70	2
Cromwell	24/12/70	10/02/71	7
Paint Your Wagon	25/03/71	07/04/71	2
Waterloo	08/04/71	12/05/71	5
Paint Your Wagon - <i>reissue</i>	13/05/71	26/05/71	2
Too Late the Hero	17/06/71	23/06/71	1
Song of Norway	24/06/71	21/07/71	4
Airport	19/08/71	29/09/71	6
Lawrence of Arabia - <i>reissue</i>	14/10/71	27/10/71	2
Tora! Tora! Tora!	28/10/71	17/11/71	3
The Last Valley	18/11/71	01/12/71	2
Krakatoa – East of Java - <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	16/12/71	26/01/72	6
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World	27/01/72	16/02/72	3
The Great Battle	17/02/72	23/02/72	1
The Sound of Music - <i>reissue</i>	23/03/72	19/04/72	4
Le Mans <i>plus</i> The April Fools	20/04/72	26/04/72	1
The Sound of Music - <i>reissue</i> [Matinee]	04/05/72	17/05/72	2
Nicholas and Alexandra	15/06/72	12/07/72	4
The Cowboys	14/09/72	27/09/72	2
Ryan's Daughter	08/02/73	04/04/73	8
Never Give an Inch	12/04/73	18/04/73	1
Young Winston	03/05/73	23/05/73	3
Lost Horizon	27/12/73	06/02/74	6
The Poseidon Adventure	07/03/74	05/06/74	13
Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines - <i>reissue</i>	29/08/74	11/09/74	2
My Fair Lady - <i>reissue</i>	21/11/74	04/12/74	2
The Three Musketeers	05/12/74	29/01/75	8
Camelot - <i>reissue</i>	05/06/75	11/06/75	1
That's Entertainment	03/07/75	24/07/75	3
Rollerball	30/10/75	20/11/75	3
The Towering Inferno	11/12/75	04/02/76	8
Lucky Lady <i>plus</i> MASH	19/08/76	01/09/76	2
Rollerball <i>plus</i> The Return of the Pink Panther - <i>reissue</i>	07/10/76	13/10/76	1
The Poseidon Adventure <i>plus</i> Butch Cassidy - <i>reissue</i>	14/10/76	20/10/76	1
The Return of a Man Called Horse	27/01/77	09/02/77	2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – Tabloid advertisements for *South Pacific*, *The Great Race*, *The Sound of Music* and *Krakatoa East of Java* sourced from the Daily Mirror microfiche held at the New South Wales state library.



THE SOUND OF MUSIC
10th October 1968



KRAKATOA EAST OF JAVA
16th December 1971



GREATER UNION ASTRA OPENED
15th August 1985