



Village Cinemas entered the Sydney market when it purchased and, subsequently, twinned the Vogue Cinema Double Bay. Renamed the Village Twin Double Bay, the complex opened on Saturday, the 29th December, 1973 with *Don't Look Now* and *The Hireling*. The cinema only screened one 70mm film – a reissue of **2001: a Space Odyssey**. The chain subsequently opened a second twin cinema in the Sydney suburb of Blacktown. Incorporated into the Westpoint Shopping Centre and 35mm equipped, the Village Twin Blacktown opened on the 22nd March 1974 with *Alvin Purple* and *Enter the Dragon*. This was followed by the **Village Cinema City** triplex in the Sydney CBD, which opened on the 25th April 1974 with *Mame*, *Magnum Force* and *Malizia*. The latter film closed a week later and was replaced with *Blazing Saddles*. Village Cinema City was located at 545 Street Sydney and was the first multiplex to open in the Sydney CBD. The three-screen multiplex was fitted out with Bauer projectors. Cinema 1, the largest (with a seating capacity of 650), was fitted out with two Bauer (70mm capable) projectors. The other two cinemas had seating capacities of 450 and 300 respectively. The first 70mm presentations opened a “Summer Festival of 70mm Musicals”, which were followed by a reissue of **2001: a Space Odyssey**. The 70mm season of **2001: A Space Odyssey**, consisted of unknown 35mm and 70mm spool numbers due to water-damaged of the 70mm print received from Brisbane. A 35mm print was later substituted into the season. Village Cinema City was expanded to five screens on Friday, the 19th March 1976, with *The Story of O* opening in Cinema 4 and *Love and Death* in Cinema 5. The two new

auditoria were constructed on the southern side of the existing complex. The smaller auditoria seated 250 and 200 respectively. A sixth screen was added some time after the closure of the Village Ascot theatre [05/02/86]. Village Cinema City closed on the 5th May, 2000 and was demolished – paving the way for construction of the Meriton Tower (residential apartments) and Skyview Shopping Plaza. After the multiplex’s closure, Village Cinemas and Hoyts Cinemas merged as one exhibitor in the refurbished Hoyts Centre, which included an additional four screens, after the two large 70mm equipped auditoriums, Cinema 3 and 7, were reconfigured into six smaller (35mm) auditoriums. This rebuild was achieved with each of the two large auditoriums split in two and a third screen positioned in the area previously occupied by the original stage and screen. In 2002 the Greater Union George, then comprising six screens, and the Hoyts Centre’s eleven screens merged into a single, seventeen screen multiplex - renamed the George Street Cinemas.

Please Note – With a second screen added at Village Cinema City capable for 70mm with the release of *The Right Stuff*, it has not been possible to confirm whether *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan*, *Gremlins*, *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*, *The Mission* and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* screened in 70mm after the move over due to the absence of cinema numbers from the newspaper directories. Our research for Australia in 70mm has found no tabloid advertising or sessions directory promoting the films in 70mm. Accordingly, the film titles and season details will remain highlighted in BLUE cells until confirmed either way.

VILLAGE DOUBLE BAY 70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
2001: A Space Odyssey - <i>reissue</i>	30/09/73	30/09/73	1 Day
2001: A Space Odyssey - <i>reissue</i>	12/10/73	22/11/73	6

VILLAGE CINEMA CITY 70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
70mm Festival – <i>presented over six consecutive Sundays</i>	27/10/74	01/11/74	
Hello, Dolly! <i>plus</i> Star!	27/10/74	27/10/74	1 Day
The Great Caruso <i>plus</i> Singin’ in the Rain	03/11/74	03/11/74	1 Day
The Sound of Music	10/11/74	10/11/74	1 Day
Some Like it Hot <i>plus</i> West Side Story	17/11/74	17/11/74	1 Day
Thoroughly Modern Millie <i>plus</i> Sweet Charity	24/11/74	24/11/74	1 Day
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers <i>plus</i> Goodbye, Mr. Chips	01/12/74	01/12/74	1 Day
2001: A Space Odyssey - <i>reissue</i>	05/12/74	24/12/74	3
Deliverance - <i>reissue</i>	15/04/76	27/05/76	6
The Right Stuff – <i>70mm print moved to Village Sylvania 22/03/84</i>	08/03/84	06/06/84	13
Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan - <i>move over from Pitt Centre</i>	16/08/84	21/11/84	14
Gremlins - <i>move over from State</i>	21/03/85	18/09/85	26
Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome - <i>move over from State</i>	07/11/85	05/02/86	13
The Mission - <i>move over from Centre on George Street</i>	20/08/87	26/08/87	1
The Witches of Eastwick	27/08/87	03/02/88	23
Who Framed Roger Rabbit - <i>move over from Centre on George Street</i>	30/03/89	19/04/89	3
Batman	31/08/89	TBC	
Gremlins 2: The New Batch	20/09/90	TBC	
The Last Boy Scout	23/04/92	24/06/92	9
Lethal Weapon 3	03/09/92	13/01/93	19

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – Tabloid advertisements for the *Summer Festival of 70mm*, *The Right Stuff* and *Deliverance* sourced from Sydney tabloid microfiche held at the New South Wales state library.



VILLAGE CINEMA CITY SUMMER FESTIVAL 70MM 27th October 1974

summer festival of 70mm musicals
HELLO DOLLY *plus* BARBARA STROISSAND *plus* STAR *plus* JULIA ANDREWS
tonight 7pm village cinema city

summer festival of 70mm musicals
THE GREAT CARUSO *plus* SINGIN' IN THE RAIN *plus* THE SOUND OF MUSIC
tonight 7pm village cinema city

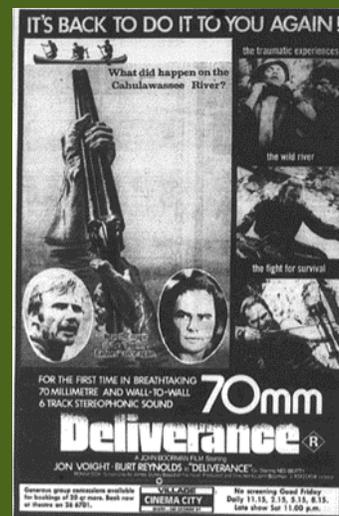
summer festival of 70mm musicals
SOUND OF MUSIC *plus* JULIA ANDREWS *plus* CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER
tonight 7pm village cinema city

summer festival of 70mm musicals
SOME LIKE IT HOT *plus* WEST SIDE STORY
tonight 7pm village cinema city

summer festival of 70mm musicals
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE *plus* SWEET CHARITY
tonight 7pm village cinema city

summer festival of 70mm musicals
SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS *plus* GOODBYE MR. CHIPS
tonight 7pm village cinema city

VILLAGE CINEMA CITY DELIVERANCE 15th April 1976



VILLAGE
CINEMA CITY
264.6701-545 GEORGE ST.

VILLAGE CINEMA CITY
545 George Street, Sydney

OPENED
25th April 1974