BRISBANE STORYBOARD - Brisbane is the capital city of Queensland and is located on the east coast of Australia. The first CinemaScope presentation in Brisbane took place at the Hoyts Regent Theatre and the first 70mm equipped theatre in Brisbane was the St James Theatre. The St James was also the fourth theatre in Australia to be equipped for the 70mm presentation. During the Roadshow Engagement period [1958 to 1974], there were four key city theatres and three suburban theatres of Brisbane fitted out for the 70mm presentation. These seven theatres have been tabled below in date order of their first 70mm presentation.

1st Theatre in 70mm - 09/06/1960. The Empire Theatre opened in 1911 as a vaudeville theatre. In 1933 the theatre name was changed to the **St James**. In 1960 the St James was equipped for 70mm presentation and premiered **South Pacific**. In 1965 the St James was renamed the **Paris** Theatre for the opening of **The Sound of Music**.

2nd Theatre in 70mm - 15/09/1965 - The Lyceum opened as cinema in 1909. Greater Union purchased the theatre in 1963 and extensively remodelled the theatre. Reopened as the **George**, the first film was **The Fall of the Roman Empire** in 70mm. The George also screened five films that had single-lens Cinerama seasons in Sydney and Melbourne.

3rd Theatre in 70mm – 01/12/1965 - Her Imperial Majesty's Opera House opened on the 2nd April, 1888. The theatre became His Majesty's Theatre upon the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. Sometime after the ascension of Elizabeth 2 in 1952, the theatre became **Her Majesty's Theatre**. The theatre was equipped for 70mm in 1965 - opening with **My Fair Lady.**

4th Theatre in 70mm – 08/06/1967. The Rex Theatre was located in Fortitude Valley opening on the 8th May, 1936. After Hoyts Regent Theatre opened with CinemaScope, the Rex adopted a first-release policy. In 1967 The Rex was upgraded with Victoria 8 projectors to accommodate 70mm screenings. The Rex was renamed the **Town** for the opening of **Khartoum**.

5th Theatre in 70mm – 20/07/1967. The **Avro** Theatre is located in the inner city Brisbane suburb of Bulimba. The original 'open-air theatre' operated from 1912. It was replaced by a new hard-top theatre completed in 1926. A new wide screen was installed in 1954 and 1967 saw the installation of 70mm projection. First 70mm film was a reissue of **The Great Race**.
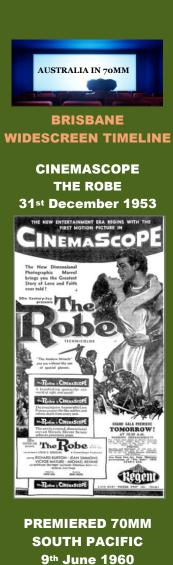

6th Theatre in 70mm – 21/03/1969. The **Forum** Theatre opened on the 16th November 1967 with A Man for All Seasons. Built and operated by Greater Union Theatres, it was equipped for 70mm and 35mm presentations. The theatre's first 70mm film was **Funny Girl**. The Forum Theatre was twinned in the 1980's and renamed Greater Union 4 & 5.

7th Theatre in 70mm – 26/12/1970. Located in New Farm, an inner-city suburb of Brisbane, the Merthyr Picture Palace opened in 1922. In 1937, the theatre was refurbished and re-named the Astor Theatre. The Astor was acquired by Village Cinemas in 1970 and was twinned reopening as the **Village Twin** with **Anne of the Thousand Days** in 70mm.

AUSTRALIA IN 70MM

BRISBANE WIDESCREEN TIMELINE

CINEMASCOPE THE ROBE 31st December 1953

PREMIERED 70MM SOUTH PACIFIC 9th June 1960

ST JAMES / PARIS
GEORGE
HER MAJESTY'S
TOWN
AVRO BULIMBA
FORUM
VILLAGE TWIN