



The **Forum** was located at 162 Albert Street, in the Brisbane CBD. A purpose-built cinema, it was owned and operated exclusively by Greater Union Theatres. The auditorium and foyers featured an Italian Renaissance décor. The wrap-around stage curtains extended from wall-to-wall and down in a stepped arrangement as far as the front rows of the Orchestra and Balcony sections of the auditorium. The cinema opened on Thursday, 6th November, 1967 with a gala premiere of the film, *A Man for All Seasons*. It opened to the public the following day and quickly became GU's premiere, first-run cinema in Brisbane. The Forum comprised a two-level auditorium, with separate Orchestra and Balcony sections and a total seating capacity of 984. The Orchestra section was set on a moderately raked (sloping) floor, whilst the Balcony was set on a steeper and stepped rake. Each row of seats was straight (not curved) and there was a significant setback distance from the stage and screen to the first row of seats in the Orchestra section. The cinema was 70mm capable with Victoria 8 projectors. The Forum's first 70mm film was *Funny Girl*, which opened on the 21st March, 1969. Many other 70mm openings and reissues followed, including: *Sweet Charity*, a reissue in 70mm of *Paint Your Wagon*, [which had originally opened in 35mm 4Track Magnetic at the George, Brisbane] and an MGM 70mm Festival consisting of *Doctor Zhivago*, *Ben-Hur*, *The Dirty Dozen* and *Gone with the Wind*. It is also worth noting that *Airport* enjoyed the longest 70mm season at the Forum during the Roadshow Engagement period. Interestingly, the film was only advertised as screening in 70mm from the 31/07/1970 - towards the end of the film's 21-week season. The Forum was twinned in 1982 - reopening on Wednesday, 15th September, 1982, with the Balcony (the larger of the two cinemas) becoming Cinema 1. A new bio was constructed at the back of the Orchestra/Stalls section of Cinema 2. Both cinemas were 70mm capable with Victoria 8 projectors. The twin cinema became known as Greater Union Cinemas 4 and 5; the three-screen Greater Union Cinemas 1 to 3 having been created out of the former Metro Theatre - also located in Albert Street. The latter would be known by several names - Albert Cinemas and Brisbane City Cinemas.

Please Note - It has not been possible to confirm whether *The Boyfriend* screened in 70mm at the Forum. Our research for **Australia in 70mm** has found no tabloid advertising or sessions directory promoting the film in 70mm. Accordingly, the film title and season details will remain highlighted in BLUE cells until confirmed either way.



70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
Funny Girl	21/03/69	07/08/69	20
Sweet Charity	08/08/69	25/09/69	7
The Jolson Story – First Time Brisbane 70mm	06/03/70	19/03/70	2
Airport	17/04/70	10/09/70	21
MGM Film Festival Doctor Zhivago – reissue	15/10/71	21/10/71	1
MGM Film Festival Ben-Hur – reissue	22/10/71	28/10/71	1
MGM Film Festival The Dirty Dozen – reissue	29/10/71	04/11/71	1
MGM Film Festival Gone with the Wind – reissue	05/11/71	11/11/71	1
MGM Film Festival Doctor Zhivago – reissue	12/11/71	25/11/71	2
Raid on Rommel	26/11/71	09/12/71	2
Gone with the Wind – reissue	10/12/71	23/12/71	2
The Boyfriend	24/11/71	10/02/72	11
Ryan's Daughter – First Time Brisbane 70mm	17/11/72	30/11/72	2
Spartacus – reissue	01/12/72	14/12/72	2
Paint Your Wagon – First Time Brisbane 70mm	15/12/72	28/12/72	2
The Great Waltz	09/02/73	05/04/73	8
The Ten Commandments – First Time Brisbane 70mm	01/02/74	07/03/74	5
That's Entertainment	06/12/74	13/02/75	10

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – Tabloid advertisements for *Funny Girl*, *MGM 70mm Film Festival*, *Airport* and *Paint Your Wagon* sourced from the Brisbane Courier Mail microfiche held at the New South Wales state library.



FORUM BRISBANE WIDESCREEN TIMELINE

**PREMIERED 70MM
FUNNY GIRL
21st March 1969**



**MGM 70MM FILM
FESTIVAL
15th October 1971**



FORUM CINEMA
162 Albert Street, Brisbane

OPENED
6th November 1967

FORUM TWINNED
RENAMED CINEMA 4 & 5
15th September 1982