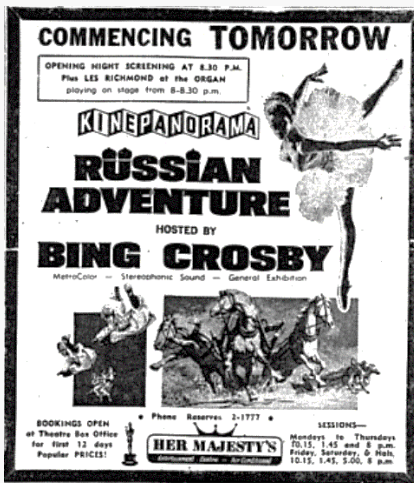




Her Majesty's Theatre was located at 193 Queen Street Brisbane and adjacent to the Wintergarden, Odeon and Regent theatres. It opened as **Her Imperial Majesty's Opera House** on the 2nd April, 1888 with a performance of "*Held by the Enemy*." For much of its life as a legitimate theatre, Her Majesty's operated under the J. C. Williamson banner. Other forms of entertainment were introduced, including ballets, repertory theatre (including drama and comedies), vaudeville acts and even boxing bouts. The theatre's name changed to **His Majesty's**

Theatre upon the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. An article in *The Brisbane Courier* on the 6th April, 1929 (page 19) indicated that Hoyts 'Talkies' would commence screening films and that preparatory works were already under way. Supported by a Western Electric sound system, the opening film was *Mother Knows Best*. The film ran for three weeks – closing on the 17th May. However, His Majesty's life as a cinema was short-lived, with its sound equipment transferred to the Lyceum Theatre in George Street. During the 1930s, 40s and 50s the theatre often alternated between legitimate theatre, opera, ballet and cinema. Following the ascension of Elizabeth II to the British throne in 1952, the theatre's name eventually changed to **Her Majesty's Theatre**. In 1965, Warner Bros were in need of a theatre in Brisbane in which to screen *My Fair Lady*. Brisbane's major 70mm theatres were fully occupied at the time. Her Majesty's closed for the installation of two Todd-AO DP70 projectors and a six-channel stereophonic sound system for the 70mm release of *My Fair Lady*. The film opened at Her Majesty's Theatre on the 1st December, 1965. The film ran for 33-weeks before closing on 13th July,

1966. Ironically, the stage version of *My Fair Lady* had also taken place at Her Majesty's in Brisbane – in both 1961 and (again) in 1970. During the period of the Roadshow Engagement [1958 to 1974], there were three other 70mm openings at Her Majesty's - *Russian Adventure*, *Tora! Tora! Tora!* and *Song of Norway*. After the theatre was sold to the AMP Society in 1973, Her Majesty's included music concerts, including Blondie (1973), Little River Band (1976), INXS (1980) and Cold Chisel (1982). The theatre closed its doors for the final time after the Lord Mayor's Command Performance on the evening of Sunday, 16th October, 1983. Her Majesty's theatre, the Wintergarden and Odeon cinemas were demolished and the sites are now occupied by the Hilton Hotel and Wintergarden Shopping Centre.



70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
My Fair Lady	02/12/65	13/07/66	32
My Fair Lady – reissue	26/06/67	08/07/67	2
Russian Adventure	22/01/68	17/02/68	4
Russian Adventure – reissue	11/04/68	15/04/68	1
Gone with the Wind – reissue	03/02/69	22/02/69	3
Tora! Tora! Tora!	17/12/70	24/02/71	10
Song of Norway	29/07/71	06/10/71	10
Lawrence of Arabia - reissue	28/10/71	27/11/71	5
The Professionals - reissue	09/04/73	25/04/73	3
The Bridge on the River Kwai – First Time Brisbane 70mm	22/11/73	12/12/73	3
The Sound of Music – reissue	13/12/73	02/01/74	3

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – Tabloid advertisement's for *My Fair Lady* and *Russian Adventure* sourced from the Brisbane Courier Mail microfiche held at the New South Wales state library.



HER MAJESTY'S BRISBANE WIDESCREEN TIMELINE

PREMIERED 70MM

MY FAIR LADY

1st December 1965



HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE
193 Queen Street, Brisbane

OPENED
2nd April 1888
as the, HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S
OPERA HOUSE

RENAMED
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE
6th February 1952