



Located in New Farm, an inner-city suburb of Brisbane, the theatre opened late 1921 as the **Merthyr Picture Palace**. Originally an "open-air" venue, the theatre was acquired by Richard Francis Stephens and Charles Eric Munro in 1924. After Brisbane City Council approved the renovations to the Merthyr Picture Palace in September 1924, the Brisbane architect Claude E Humphreys was commissioned to design additions and alterations to the theatre and was re-named the **Astor Theatre** reopening in early 1925. Further renovation was undertaken in 1937 to the design of architect George Rae, which provided a seating capacity of 1,145. In 1970 the Astor lease and title were sold to Village Theatres (Brisbane) Proprietary Limited. Shortly after, a second screen was added by way of the original **Astor** auditorium split in two with a common, back to back projection room; designs for which were prepared by Ron G. Monsbrough and Associates. Village Twin was equipped with dual 70/35mm Toshiba projectors with xenon in Cinema 1 and Toshiba 35 only projectors with carbon arcs in cinema 2. The **Village Twin Cinemas** reopened on the 26th December 1970 - the first twin cinema complex in Queensland. Cinema One [The Blue Room] had a seating capacity of 555, and Cinema Two [The Purple Room] seated 352. The theatre's first 70mm

film was *Anne of the Thousand Days* (which enjoyed a 17-week season). During the period of the Roadshow Engagement, the Village Twin presented three 70mm openings which included, *Anne of the Thousand Days*, *The Wild Bunch* and *The Three Musketeers*. The Village Twin also presented the successful 19-week season of *Deliverance* in 35mm. *Deliverance* was later reissued in 70mm at capital city theatres around Australia. Village Twin closed in 2003. The site sat dormant until 2013 when it was acquired by the Sourris Brothers, Peter and Stephen. Retaining the heritage listed shell of the Village Twin, the site was converted into a six-screen complex with the then demolished main auditorium [cinema 1], becoming five screens and the old cinema 2, becoming the main auditorium of the six-screen cinema complex. Currently the cinema complex is managed and operated by the Sourris Family.

70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
Anne of a Thousand Days	26/12/70	21/04/71	17
The Wild Bunch	22/04/71	09/06/71	7
2001: a Space Odyssey - reissue	17/10/71	17/10/71	1 DAY
2001: a Space Odyssey - reissue	11/11/71	01/12/71	3
Doctor Zhivago - reissue	02/12/71	15/12/71	2
Camelot - reissue	16/12/71	24/12/71	1
2001: a Space Odyssey - reissue	14/09/72	28/09/72	2
Deliverance	21/12/72	02/05/73	19
2001: a Space Odyssey - reissue	29/03/73	11/04/73	2
2001: a Space Odyssey - reissue	15/11/73	24/12/73	6
The Three Musketeers	08/08/74	04/09/74	4
My Fair Lady - reissue	10/10/74	23/10/74	2

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VILLAGE TWIN BRISBANE WIDESCREEN TIMELINE

PREMIERED 70MM ANNE OF THE THOUSAND DAYS

26th December 1970



2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY 29th March 1973



VILLAGE TWIN
Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley

The Telegraph Brisbane
5th May 1922 [page 9]
as the, Merthyr Picture Palace

The Telegraph Brisbane
24th June 1925 [page 15]
as the, Astor Theatre