



The Theatre Royal was located at 669 Hunter Street in the city of Newcastle - 160 kilometres north of Sydney. Betts Theatre Royal opened under the direction of Edward L. Betts on the 16th June 1924 with *Hearts Aflame*. It was the Greater J. D. Williams Amusement Co. Ltd. management who had the world premiere of the Australasian Films production of *For the Term of His Natural Life* at the Royal on the 20th June 1927. In 1938, the Royal was leased to Newcastle Theatres Pty. Ltd. In 1939 the

theatre was refurbished and reopened on the 9th March 1939 under the Northern Amusements Corporation Pty. Ltd. banner as the NEW Theatre Royal with the official opening film, *Suez* starring Tyrone Power. On the 7th August 1942, Hoyts Theatres acquired an interest in Newcastle Theatres Pty. Ltd. and the Theatre Royal's first film under the Hoyts banner was *The Ghost of Frankenstein*. The city of Newcastle first CinemaScope was *The Robe* at the Hoyts Civic on 18th November 1954 and in 1962, the Hoyts Royal became the first cinema outside of a major state capital city to be equipped for 70mm. Fitted out with Cinemeccanica Victoria X projectors [serial numbers 533/599] and a six track stereophonic sound system, the upgrade also required the new screen to be brought forward in front of the original proscenium. The Todd-AO 70mm screen opening measured 40 feet x 18 feet, with a 128 feet projection throw. The Royal reopened on the 15th March 1962 with *Can-Can* [head projectionist Ralph Lucas] and during the Reserved Seating Engagement era became the primary venue for Roadshow presentations in Newcastle. The Royal closed on the 17th September 1980 with *The Final Countdown* and was twinned, with the stalls area becoming cinema 1 and the original dress circle, became cinema 2. The Victoria X projectors were removed [installed at the Orana cinema Dubbo] with both screens equipped with DP75 projectors for 70mm presentations. Head projectionist Bruce Potter reopened the Royal Twin on the 18th December 1980 with *The Empire Strikes Back* presented in 70mm, *Sea Wolves*, *Fatty Finn* and late shows of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* which ran for 106 consecutive weeks. After the opening of the nearby Hoyts Charlestown multiplex, the Royal Twin finally closed on the 6th December 1989 with *Erik the Viking* and *When Harry Met Sally* as the last films.

70MM OPENINGS	FORMAT	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
Can-Can	Todd-AO	15/03/62	23/05/62	10
The Miracle of Todd-AO [30FPS]	Todd-AO	15/03/62	23/05/62	10
Spartacus	Super Technirama 70	24/05/62	25/07/62	9
South Pacific	Todd-AO	26/07/62	28/11/62	18
Black Tights	Super Technirama 70	29/11/62	19/12/62	3
Solomon and Sheba	Super Technirama 70	20/12/62	06/02/63	7
Porgy and Bess	Todd-AO	07/02/63	06/03/63	4
EL CID	Super Technirama 70	07/03/63	01/05/63	8
The Alamo	Todd-AO	02/05/63	05/06/63	5
Oklahoma! - <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	Todd-AO	06/06/63	10/07/63	5
The March of Todd-AO [24FPS]	Todd-AO	06/06/63	10/07/63	5
Exodus	Panavision 70	31/10/63	24/12/63	8
Barabbas	Super Technirama 70	26/12/63	29/01/64	5
West Side Story	Panavision 70	30/01/64	01/04/64	9
The King and I - <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	Grandeur 70	02/06/64	01/07/64	3
Around the World in 80 Days - <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	Todd-AO	02/07/64	22/07/64	3
55 Days at Peking	Super Technirama 70	23/07/64	16/09/64	8
Lawrence of Arabia	Super Panavision 70	26/12/64	03/03/65	10
The Long Ships	Super Panavision 70	15/04/65	02/06/65	7
Cleopatra	Todd-AO	03/06/65	11/08/65	10
The Fall of the Roman Empire	Ultra Panavision 70	03/02/66	16/03/66	6
In Harms Way	70mm Panavision	17/03/66	30/03/66	2
Lord Jim	Super Panavision 70	31/03/66	11/05/66	6
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World	Ultra Panavision 70	12/05/66	31/08/66	16
Circus World	Super Technirama 70	01/09/66	28/09/66	4
Genghis Khan	70mm Panavision	22/12/66	08/02/67	7
The Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines	Todd-AO	09/02/67	26/05/67	16
The Professionals	70mm Panavision	27/05/67	21/06/67	4
The Greatest Story Ever Told	Ultra Panavision 70	22/06/67	26/07/67	5
The Heroes of Telemark	70mm Panavision	27/07/67	16/08/67	3
The Agony and the Ecstasy	Todd-AO	17/08/67	06/09/67	3
The Hallelujah Trail	Ultra Panavision 70	07/09/67	20/09/67	2



The **NEWCASTLE CIVIC**
PRESENTED FIRST
CINEMASCOPE
THE ROBE
18th November 1954



The **NEWCASTLE STRAND**
PRESENTED FIRST
VISTAVISION
WHITE CHRISTMAS
24th December 1954



ROYAL NEWCASTLE
669 Hunter Street, Newcastle

OPENED 16th June 1924
as the, Betts Theatre Royal

70MM OPENINGS - Continue	FORMAT	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
The Great Race	70mm Panavision	21/09/67	01/11/67	6
Is Paris Burning	70mm Panavision	02/11/67	15/11/67	2
The Dirty Dozen	70mm Spherical	16/11/67	16/12/67	5
Khartoum	Ultra Panavision 70	18/12/67	31/01/68	7
Gone with the Wind – <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	70mm Spherical	01/02/68	06/03/68	5
Battle of the Bulge	Ultra Panavision 70	07/03/68	27/03/68	3
Cheyenne Autumn	Super Panavision 70	28/03/68	10/04/68	2
Grand Prix	Super Panavision 70	11/04/68	22/05/68	6
The Sand Pebbles	70mm Panavision	23/05/68	12/06/68	3
The Bible: In the Beginning	D-150	13/06/68	17/07/68	5
Guns for San Sebastian	70mm Franscope	18/07/68	31/07/68	2
The Sound of Music	Todd-AO	01/08/68	19/02/69	29
2001: a Space Odyssey	Super Panavision 70	20/02/69	13/03/69	3
Far From the Madding Crowd	70mm Panavision	13/03/69	16/04/69	5
Camelot	70mm Panavision	17/04/69	11/06/69	8
Ice Station Zebra	Super Panavision 70	24/07/69	20/08/69	4
Finian's Rainbow	70mm Panavision	21/08/69	10/09/69	3
Ben-Hur – <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	MGM Camera 65	16/10/69	12/11/69	4
Seven Brides for Seven Brothers – <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	70mm CinemaScope	13/11/69	26/11/69	2
Star!	Todd-AO	27/11/69	17/12/69	3
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Super Panavision 70	18/12/69	11/02/70	8
Sweet Charity	70mm Panavision	12/02/70	18/03/70	5
The Lion in Winter	70mm Panavision	21/05/70	10/06/70	3
Winning	70mm Panavision	11/06/70	15/07/70	5
Those Daring Young Men in their Jaunty Jalopies	70mm Panavision	13/08/70	09/09/70	4
Hello, Dolly!	Todd-AO	10/09/70	30/09/70	3
West Side Story - <i>reissue</i>	Panavision 70	01/10/70	14/10/70	2
Patton	D-150	29/10/70	11/11/70	2
Valley of the Dolls - <i>reissue</i>	70mm Panavision	18/11/70	25/11/70	1
Castle Keep	70mm Panavision	26/11/70	02/12/70	1
Oliver! – <i>reissue</i>	70mm Panavision	03/12/70	24/12/70	3
Funny Girl	70mm Panavision	26/12/70	03/03/71	10
Cromwell	70mm Panavision	04/03/71	21/04/71	7
Waterloo	70mm Panavision	17/06/71	14/07/71	4
Too Late the Hero	70mm Spherical	15/07/71	21/07/71	1
Around the World in 80 Days - <i>reissue</i>	Todd-AO	02/09/71	15/09/71	2
Lawrence of Arabia - <i>reissue</i>	Super Panavision 70	30/09/71	20/10/71	3
The Last Valley	Todd-AO	28/10/71	03/11/71	1
Song of Norway	Super Panavision	09/12/71	26/01/72	7
The Great Battle	Sovoscope 70	27/01/72	09/02/72	2
Tora! Tora! Tora!	70mm Panavision	10/02/72	08/03/72	4
The Sound of Music - <i>reissue</i>	Todd-AO	10/08/72	06/09/72	4
The Cowboys	70mm Panavision	05/10/72	18/10/72	2
The Andromeda Strain	70mm Panavision	16/11/72	22/11/72	1
Young Winston	70mm Panavision	10/05/73	06/06/73	4
The Three Musketeers	70mm Spherical	02/10/74	23/10/74	3
Camelot - <i>reissue</i>	70mm Panavision	27/03/75	23/04/75	4
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - <i>reissue</i>	Super Panavision 70	01/11/76	07/11/76	1
The Return of a Man Called Horse	70mm Panavision	1977	Dates to be confirmed	



70mm, being the independently operated Kensington, the Greater Union Strand and Hoyts Royal Twin, their 70mm film titles will be tabled in separate storyboards.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – Thanks to Greg Donnan, Bruce Potter, David Coles and Greg Beasley

Thank you to Greg and Bruce for their wonderful account of the [81] film titles which were presented in 70mm at the Newcastle Royal theatre. It is not too often when researching one of the many theatres for *Australia in 70mm*, you come across a detailed timeline of a theatres history in 70mm.

For the three other theatres in Newcastle which presented



The **NEWCASTLE ROYAL**

PREMIERED **TODD-AO**
CAN-CAN
15th March 1962



The **NEWCASTLE ROYAL**

FIRST 70MM BLOW-UP
IN HARMS WAY
17th March 1966





ROYAL TWIN OPENED
18th December 1980

ROYAL (NEWCASTLE) Theatre

PROJECTION EQUIPMENT

Card No. _____

Date 1/10/65

PROJECTORS	Make	Model	Serial Nos.	INSTALLED
	CINEMECCANICA	VICTORIA X	533-599	15/3/62.

LENSES

Standard	Make TAYLOR HOBSON	Type VITAL	F.L. Nos. 3 1/2	497251 - 849255 X
CinemaScope	Make KALEE	Type S	F.L. Nos. 4 1/2	83459-83460 X
Anamorphic	Make BAUSCH & LOMB	Type 9"	Mag. Nos. DE2541-DE2606	/
TODD AO	" ISCO	"	T-KIPTAGON 5-7 FL	365024-366601

PROJ. ARCS.	Make MOLE SUPER 70	Serial Nos.	131-132
Arc Supply	Make NTS	Type SELENIUM	Capacity 46070 VOLT. 120 AMP. DUAL CHANNEL.

STEREO ARC	Make RAYCOPHONE	Type AUTO	Lens F.L. 12"
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Arc Supply	Make WESTALITE	Type H160
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OPERATION TO LENS

CARBONS	Projector 13.6 x 11mm	70 mm LENS	KALEE Nos 86220 & 86221
			Stereo 8 x 7mm

SCREEN	Size 43' x 20'	Type TECHNICO™ SEAMLESS WHITE 3/0 974	INSTALLED 2-2-79
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PICTURE SIZE	Standard 32' x 18'	CinemaScope & TODD AO 40' x 18'	Throw 128' to centre of arc.
All Screen & Picture measurements taken on the Arc and not on the chord.			

SOUND HEAD	Optical	Make CINEMECCANICA	Type ROTARY STABILIZER
	Stereophonic	Make "	Type 4 & 6 TRACK

Bases CINEMECCANICA

Drives "

AMPLIFIERS	Make KALEE	Type 916
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Valves KT66 - EF37A - L63 - 6V6 - U52 - EF86 - 6V4 - EM84

Speaking System KALEE

Public Address Western Electric coupled to sound system

Hearing Aids 4 Western Electric

Non-Sync. Western Elect. 203B - FITTED WITH 2 COLLARO 3-SPEED UNITS

Emergency Lighting 4 x 6V 15 PLATE Batteries DON Charger BULB-TYPE

Stand-By MEADOWS Engine MACFARLANE Generator 75KVA Capacity

Seating Capacity 962, i.e. 208 LOUNGE, 264 CIRCLE, 490 STALLS

Ventilating Equipment 7.5HP EXHAUST MULTI-VANE 12.5HP MULTI-VANE BLOWER Both approx 4-6

Heating Equipment 4 HAMMEL GAS STEAM UNITS.

Form H 106

PARTICULARS OF NEW PLANT AND REPLACEMENT