

The Greater Union Paramount Theatre was located at 525 George Street, Sydney and was built on the site of a furniture showroom (E.G. Glass & Coy. in George St.) and an adjoining warehouse to the rear and fronting Kent Street. The cinema stood next to the Victory cinema, which became known as the Rapallo cinema on the 16th December 1966 after an extensive refurbishment. Access to the cinema was via a long lobby, which ran down the northern side of the Rapallo Theatre. It then opened out into a vast single-level auditorium capable of seating 1,140 patrons. The Paramount opened on the 5th May, 1966 with *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*. The theatre was equipped by National Theatre Supplies (NTS) with two dual 35/70 Victoria 8 projectors and Cinemecanica Zenith 450 carbon arcs and one Kalee 21 35mm projector with a GK19 Westrex carbon arc. The audio equipment was manufactured by NTS in Sydney and comprised transistorised magnetic preamplifiers, valve (EF86) optical amplifiers, two cabinets of NTS 50W valve power amplifiers with KT66 outputs and power supplies - providing six channels of Todd AO sound. The 5 x stage channels comprised Altec Lansing multi-cellular horns and A4 (or equivalent) and low-frequency (LF) speakers. The first 70mm presentation was the VistaVision reissue of *The Ten Commandments* on the 23rd November, 1973. The notable 35mm releases were, *Alfie*, *Love Story*, *The Godfather*, *The Sting* and the 70mm releases of *Grease* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. A Dolby CP100 and Dolby MPU with new power amplifiers was installed for the world premiere of *Can't Stop the Music*. Whilst the same stage speakers were retained at the time, sub bass speakers were added. The Paramount closed in June 1983 with *An Officer and a Gentleman* and was later demolished (along with the Rapallo) prior to construction of the new Greater Union Centre on George Street – a four screen multiplex. It is important to note that two seasons of *Gone with the Wind* were not advertised as screening in 70mm. Accordingly, the film title details will remain highlighted in BLUE cells until confirmed either way. In addition, the release of *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* in 70mm has been questioned by 70mm enthusiasts. In the case of *Star Trek*, it is possible that the film opened in 35mm and a 70mm print was substituted later in the season. I (DL) can confirm, however, there was a 70mm spool of *Star Trek* found in the Greater Union projection room when the Hoyts Corporation operated the George Street cinemas. As such, the season and screening details will remain until confirmed otherwise.

70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
The Ten Commandments – <i>First Time in 70mm</i>	23/11/73	20/12/73	4
Jesus Christ Superstar	21/12/73	04/04/74	15
Gone with the Wind - <i>reissue</i>	08/10/76	16/12/76	10
Logan's Run	17/12/76	10/02/77	8
Gone with the Wind - <i>reissue</i>	21/07/78	03/08/78	2
Grease	03/08/78	07/06/79	44
2001: A Space Odyssey - <i>reissue</i>	22/06/79	09/08/79	7
Star Trek: The Motion Picture	21/12/79	27/03/80	14
Can't Stop the Music	19/06/80	27/11/80	23
The Jazz Singer - <i>move over from State</i>	10/04/81	07/05/81	4
Raiders of the Lost Ark *	14/08/81	05/08/82	51
Poltergeist	06/08/82	09/12/82	18
The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas	10/12/82	10/02/83	9

\* The 51-week season of "Raiders" was followed by a 17-week move over to the Barclay Theatre.

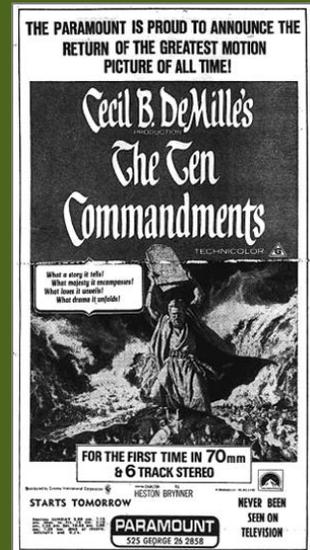
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – Tabloid advertisements for *The Ten Commandments* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* sourced from Sydney tabloid microfiche held at the New South Wales state library.



## PARAMOUNT SYDNEY

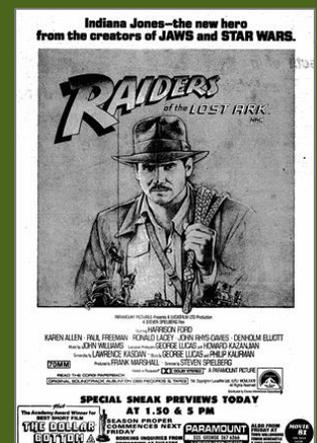
### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

23rd November 1973



## RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

14th August 1981



PARAMOUNT SYDNEY  
525 George Street, Sydney

OPENED  
5th May 1966