



Built on the site of the former Colonial Theatre No. 1, the Plaza Theatre was located at 600 George Street, Sydney. The Colonial No. 1 was opened by the J. D. Williams Amusement Company on the 2nd May, 1910. It was renamed Hoyts Deluxe in 1918, and retained this name until its demolition in 1929. The new theatre opened with *Dynamite* on the 11th April 1930. During its forty seven years as a key city cinema for exhibitor, Hoyts Theatres, the Plaza presented numerous event motion pictures, including: *Bwana Devil* in 3D on the 16th April 1953; the second CinemaScope release in Sydney - *How To Marry a Millionaire* on the 21st January 1954; the Australian premiere season of *This Is Cinerama*, which opened in the 3-strip Cinerama format on the 17th September 1958, and the transition to single lens (essentially 70mm) Cinerama. The latter process necessitated the installation of 70mm Cinemeccanica Victoria X projectors for the season of *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, which commenced on the 3rd December, 1964. Numerous 70mm films followed,

including: *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, *Grand Prix*, *Tora! Tora! Tora!* and *The Poseidon Adventure*. The cinema also enjoyed long 35mm seasons of *The Battle of Britain* [23-weeks], *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* [69-weeks] *The French Connection* [28-weeks], *Papillon* [22-weeks] and *Taxi Driver* [30-weeks]. Before the theatre closed on the 29th June 1977 (with *Mr. Billion* its last attraction), it assumed the role of test theatre for the DP75 projector and ST270 platter system. Testing took place during the 46-week season of *The Towering Inferno* in 70mm. The system was to be fitted out in all seven cinemas at Sydney's Hoyts Entertainment Centre. After the Plaza's closure, *The Deep* was presented as a media screening for distributor, Columbia Pictures. This was to be followed by Twentieth Century Fox's proposed premiere of *Star Wars* in 70mm at the Plaza. Sadly, this proposal was abandoned and the order given by Hoyts management to strip the theatre of its projection equipment and theatre furnishings. *Star Wars* later opened at the new Hoyts Entertainment Centre in 70mm on the 27th October 1977. Regrettably, all that remains of this impressive theatre today is the George Street façade and the entry foyer (which currently serves as a McDonald's restaurant).

70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World	03/12/64	06/04/66	70
The Greatest Story Ever Told	06/04/66	14/09/66	23
The Hallelujah Trail	15/09/66	09/11/66	8
Battle of the Bulge	10/11/66	08/03/67	17
Khartoum	09/03/67	12/07/67	18
Grand Prix	13/07/67	23/03/68	37
Gone with the Wind - <i>reissue</i>	28/03/68	27/04/68	5
2001: A Space Odyssey	01/05/68	24/07/68	12
Valley of the Dolls	25/07/68	03/10/68	14
Custer of the West	20/02/69	02/04/69	6
Ice Station Zebra	03/04/69	18/06/69	11
West Side Story - <i>reissue</i>	19/06/69	13/08/69	8
Around the World In 80 Days - <i>reissue</i>	14/08/69	01/10/69	7
Tora! Tora! Tora!	29/07/71	27/10/71	13
The Great Battle	28/10/71	08/12/71	6
The Professionals - <i>reissue</i>	07/12/72	31/01/73	8
The Poseidon Adventure	01/03/73	06/03/74	54
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World - <i>reissue</i>	20/02/75	12/03/75	3
Grand Prix - <i>reissue</i>	13/03/75	26/03/75	2
The Towering Inferno	27/03/75	11/02/76	46
Lucky Lady	14/04/76	09/06/76	7
The Return of a Man Called Horse	16/12/76	26/01/77	6

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PLAZA SYDNEY
HOW TO MARRY A MILLIONAIRE
 21st January 1954



THIS IN CINERAMA
 17th September 1958



IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD
 3rd December 1964



PLAZA SYDNEY
 600 George Street, Sydney
 OPENED
 2nd May 1910
 as the, Colonial Theatre No.1