



AMMPT WESTERN REGION (INC.)

SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

(No.6 May / June 2013)

WHAT'S IN A NAME – “IN FOCUS PRESENTATIONS”

Hoping for a more precise explanation of the intent of member's gatherings on the third Wednesday night of each month the AMMPT Western Region committee took the decision to change the name of the night from “Members Meetings” to “In Focus Presentations”. As one person told a committee member, “from a marketing perspective the title ‘Members Meetings’ is dead in the water. Who would want to go to a formal business meeting?” The committee agreed with these sentiments, especially as efforts are being made to attract members of the public to the presentations. An added bonus is the visual presentation of the new name.

HERITAGE MONTH DISPLAY – APRIL 18th – May 18th

Member Jillian Carlson arranged a heritage display in the foyer of the Cygnet Theatre for AMMPT Western Region. Cinema staff report that the display is generating considerable interest. It features posters, significant historical photos, information on the Stiles family and some cinema equipment from the national collection.

MAY 15th – RSL HALL FRED BELL PARADE BENTLEY 7PM for 7.30PM

“WA CINEMA HISTORY”

Our next session revolves around stories about WA cinema history and film distribution. The showing and distribution of films in WA has been, over time, a complex web of ownership and company takeovers. The changes both local and interstate have shaped how cinemas did business in WA. Names such as Wests, Greater Union, Hoyts, MGM, Ace Theatres Rank, Village Roadshow and Grand Cinemas have all played their part.

A very good attendance with visitors and re-joining former members made for an excellent evening at Andrew Bowman's presentation on museums. There were plenty of ideas with relevance to the AMMPT website.

CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN – 19th MAY – MAYTIME

Our next Classics of the Silver Screen presentation is the 1937 film Maytime starring Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald. The music of Sigmond Romberg especially “Will You Remember” has all the melody and meaningful lyrics missing from the music of today. The plot revolves around a love triangle and will induce a few watery eyes at the film's end. Relive a film shown at the Metro Theatre's Wednesday night operetta series at 10.30am on the 19th May in the Cygnet Theatre Como. If you have friends and acquaintances who might be interested in attending a show, why not send them this broadsheet or direct them to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZby_hrm75Q?

SOUNDS LIKE HERITAGE

Hear fascinating stories behind some rare and unique recordings of WA voices and music from the past, and learn how the records were made; and what must be done to preserve them. Hear about the lost John Forrest cylinder recording (1892). Hear Ensign Suridge's cornet cylinder record (1907), Charles Court's cornet playing (1928), Sir James Mitchell's speech (1936), singer Irene Rose Abbott (1941), Sir Charles Gairdner announcing Miss Western Australia (1957), Madame Rosenthal playing piano (1958), WA vs VIC Football final quarter (1965), and more.

It will be held on Sunday May 12 at 2.00 pm in the Wireless Hill Museum Cottage. It is free. Contact Richard on telephone 9330 1636 or email contact@lightandsound.net.au

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MORE ADMINISTRIVIA

For those who have not caught up with the news, after 8 years contribution to AMMPT national President Daryl Binning has resigned to pursue “an accumulation of personal projects”. Former Vice President Ross McDonald has stepped into the President position.

Information supplied by member David Smith has resulted in the AMMPT Western Region Committee applying for a Commonwealth Government grant of modest proportions for equipment that will assist with the storage and security of the national collection housed at Sunset Hospital.

To further eliminate confusion between the operations of AMMPT Western Region and AMMPT National both organisations now have separate postal and email addresses. AMMPT Western Region postal address is P.O. Box 1806, Subiaco 6904. The Western Region email address is WARegion@ammpt.asn.au AMMPT National no longer uses the iinet email address. The new address is enquiries@ammpt.asn.au

Member Trevor Kelly has provided a briefing paper to the Western Region committee on publications and future possibilities in this area.

MEMBER SNAPSHOT – JILLIAN CARLSON

Speaking to long-time members of AMMPT one could be excused for thinking the cinema projectionist operates in a man’s world. After all, the place for women is in the ticket box, candy bar or with a torch as an usherette.

One of AMMPT’s youngest members and Edith Cowan University student Jillian Carlson has smashed this obsolete stereotype by training and taking up a projectionist position at the Cygnet Theatre. She has stolen a march on many of her fellow students enrolled in the Media Studies degree by accumulating first-hand experience in the industry.

*Jillian explains.....*Mum introduced me to films when I was about 5 years old and I still remember Doris Day starring in the Lullaby of Broadway. I attended Warwick Senior High School and did “Media Studies” as a subject. Most teachers understood the area in theory, but Miss Peters was switched on with her analysis of old films. An essay I did on the film Rosemary’s Baby sticks in my mind. Sure, it’s not the 1923 Hunchback of Notre Dame but still an old film for me.

There are a few hundred students in the university media course and most seem to be aspiring film makers.

With support and mentoring from Graham Kahn and George Robinson I overcame my initial apprehension and learnt to be a projectionist. George has an amazing wealth of knowledge and I still pick up tips working alongside Barry Goldman. This practical experience is really important to me.

If I told Graham, George or Barry my current film theory unit requires me to analyse the role of women in the films Taming of the Shrew, The Sheik, and Crazy / Beautiful they would probably question the relevance of what I am doing. I’ll be looking at similarities and differences and may even ask their opinion.

After completing my bachelor degree I hope to do an honours degree and get into some research on classic cinema.

In my view the current presentation format of films is machine like. Movies haven’t lost their magic but today’s new cinemas have. Advertisements are not entertaining and need a re-think. But I guess money drives everything. Luckily the role of cinemas in the community and their potential support relationship with deserving organisations has not been lost at the Cygnet.

For small independent cinemas to survive in the long term I think there are lessons to be learnt from Cinematheque type operations in Melbourne and South Australia which screen rare and significant films. We could probably partially operate in a similar way to a subscription symphony orchestra series but have different streams of films.

Am I optimistic about the future of movies? The answer is yes, but we need to do a few things differently.