

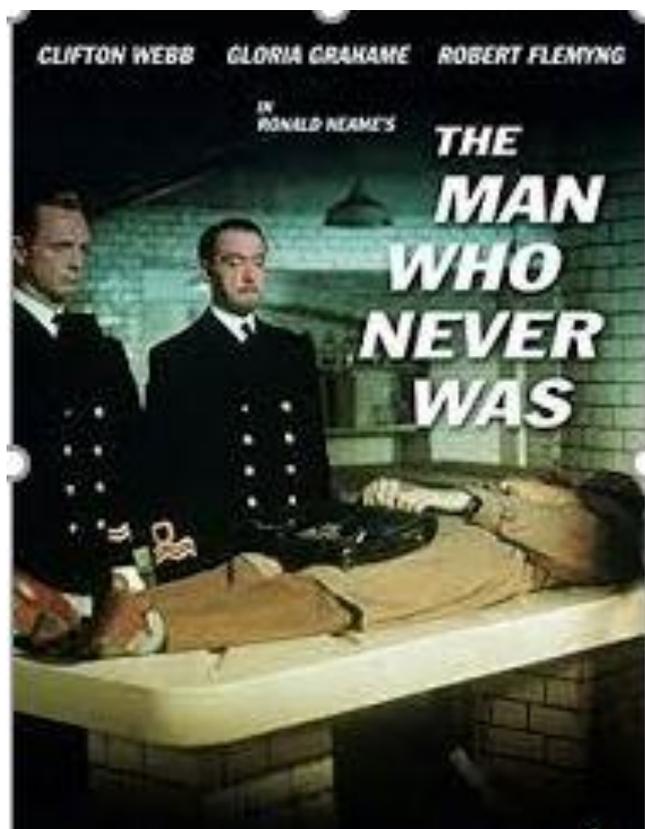
SIGHT AND SOUND UPDATE

(No.63 March / April 2019)

SUNSET SUBMISSION

A big effort by Keith Rutherford, Harry Smith with input and comments from Kevin Campbell and Agnes Foyster has resulted in a submission to the State Government for AMMPT as the newly branded Pictures in Motion (PIM) to have a permanent home at Sunset Hospital. Members may remember we have been operating for many years using a sub-licence with the former State Government agency ScreenWest. A bond of \$1,000 was paid to the State Government for the access. This enabled the collection of equipment, memorabilia and artefacts donated from private and commercial sources to be centralised at one location giving museum curator Roy Mudge and his volunteers a much better picture of the size and diversity of the collection. Both politicians and public servants have also come to view and understand the significance of the collection.

Along with other organisations PIM has been offered the opportunity to provide expressions of interest in obtaining permanency at Sunset. Your committee is optimistic PIM will be given a good hearing especially since we have been a good tenant for almost a decade and attended to building maintenance requirements necessary to retain the integrity of the buildings. Submissions closed on the 20th March.



CLASSICS OF THE SILVER SCREEN

APRIL 29th – 10.00am

GRAND CYGNET THEATRE
PRESTON STREET, COMO.

The next Classics of the Silver Screen will be the 1956 20th Century Fox film “The Man who Never Was”. The film stars Clifton Webb, Gloria Grahame and Robert Flemyng. In 1943, Royal Navy Lieutenant Commander, Ewen Montagu (Clifton Webb), comes up with a scheme to deceive the Nazis about the impending invasion of Southern Europe. It entails releasing a dead body just off the coast of Spain, where strong currents will almost certainly cause it to drift ashore in an area where a skilled German secret agent operates. This is a true story of a British attempt to trick the enemy into weakening Sicily's defences before the 1943 attack.

The Royal Navy espionage mission “Operation Mincemeat” was top secret and subject to the Official Secrets Act. Files were not made public until after the end of World War 11.

PUBLIC TALKS

Requests for talks and guided museum tours are becoming more frequent. University of the third age and Probus groups are leading the charge. The latest talk was given by Curator Roy Mudge at the Glyde – in Community Centre in East Fremantle ably assisted by Keith Rutherford. The topic was titled “When the Lion Roared” and was essentially the history of the MGM studios. Among the audience were two former school mates who had not seen him for 60 years. These talks bring in much needed funds for our organisation.

CYGNET FORMAT A GRADUAL WINNER

Longstanding members will remember the “Classics of the Silver Screen” which commenced in 2007 were originally held on Sunday mornings. At that time the average attendance was in the order of 170+ attendances. Recently over a three-year period, film screenings moved first to Wednesday and then Monday mornings. Each time a change occurred there was a change of audience market. The Sunday morning shows allowed for a wide age range of attendees. The Wednesday and Monday screenings exhibited an older audience mostly retirees with the time to come. In 2017 and 2018 Monday morning sessions averaged 104 patrons a session.

Commencing with the “Classics” this February an operetta *The Merry Widow* (1934) attracted 130 patrons which was a good start for the year.

Our success with the “Classics of the Silver Screen” concept has not been lost on the major WA exhibitors. In recent years both Hoyts and Grand Cinemas have attempted to run a nostalgia series of films. To our knowledge these endeavours have met with limited success. Looking at the screen product offered it appears the Cygnet shows are usually of around 60 years earlier vintage. In addition, the format of organ music, cartoon, featurette and news followed by an interval and then the main feature film is traditional in nature and different to the formats used in other cinemas.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Members would have received a complimentary double pass to a Karrinyup Community Centre Wurlitzer Organ show when they paid for their 2018 membership. If this pass has not been used it is still valid until June 2019. These presentations recommence on March 31st with Chris Powell (UK), followed by Tony Fenelon from Melbourne on May 5th, and finally David Bailey from Brisbane with silent films on June 16th. Shows start promptly at 2pm.

PIM AND BLACKMAGIC

One of the Perth based representatives of the Australian multimillion dollar and 300 strong employee electronics company Blackmagic reported to their Melbourne office the segment on Channel 7’s Today Tonight Show featuring Roy Mudge and our museum collection. The segment prompted the company to contact PIM and visit Sunset. Harry Smith, John Quicke and Ross McDonald were surprised to meet old associates working with the Blackmagic team who observed there is no similar organisation to ours in the eastern states. Turns out they were unaware of the existence of the Eastern and Southern Region groups of AMMPT. Incidentally the TV segment has had over 10,000 hits on social media.

APRIL 17th “IN FOCUS” – MEETING – 7.30pm

Our next meeting at the Fred Bell RSL Hall, in Fred Bell Parade St. James will highlight our ANZAC cousins in New Zealand. Graham Kahn has unearthed “The Reel New Zealand” and Roy Mudge has found some early “New Zealand Magazine” shorts.