

# Civic

The majestic Civic, a NSW heritage treasure now used exclusively for live performances, began life as a picture palace in December 1929.

It was called the "wonder theatre of Australia" and later hailed by the NSW Heritage Council as the third most important theatre/cinema building in NSW for its history and extravagant, Moroccan-style architecture.

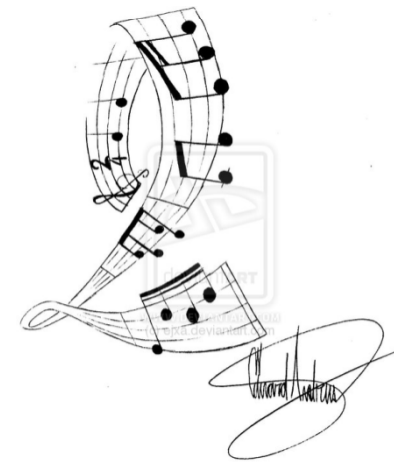


# Lyrique

Originally built fronting Thorn Street the Masonic Lodge housed the Lyric Theatre from 1915. At that stage, the main entrance faced Thorn Street, at the back of the present building.

Re-opened as a cinema by Great Union Theatres in 1942 with Abbott & Costello in "Ride 'em Cowboy". In 1959, it was re-decorated and re-named New Lyric Theatre, screening art house films, it opened with Jacques Tati in "Mon Oncle". It was closed in October 1987 with Laurence Olivier in "Macbeth".

Closed for several years, it was taken over by an independent operator and re-named Lyrique Theatre, it re-opened on 12th August 1971 with "Adams Rib".



# Star

*the site on the corner of Kenrick and  
Corlette streets, The Junction*

The Star was really just a one-level, big tin shed with no ceiling but capable of seating 1000 people. For the winter months and wet weather, there was a sliding roof.

Vaudeville and silent film reigned supreme in the early days, and during patriotic drives for raw material in World War I Star patrons could exchange rubber tyres for Saturday matinee tickets.

In 1934 the theatre received some extensive and very distinctive art deco remodelling. A tall, new facade of dark red bricks was erected plus a new ceiling and walls with star-shaped grilles installed.

It was still just a big, converted barn with the old-world charm and character of a large suburban cinema. And it had marvellous acoustics.

Noisy coal trains even ran along the eastern wall of the picture theatre until the Burwood line was closed in late 1954.

In 1965, the theatre was renovated again with a huge fly tower added to allow the theatre to be used for live performances. **That's when The Star was renamed the Hunter and used as a test pad for new Sydney productions.**



The Star  
Theatre -  
January 1913.



# Royal



- The Theatre Royal is a historical, associative, aesthetic, rarity of state level significance. It is one of the few 1930's cinemas of Art Deco / Modern style remaining with many key features that exemplify the era surviving in relatively good condition, particularly its interior wall detailing and staircase railings. **The theatre is representative of a number of phases in the history of cinema and cinema design in Australia.**
- It reflects the transition toward multiplexes as the cinema-going experience was transformed grand aesthetics and a sense of occasion, to one of increasing standardisation and commercialism.