

FOYER INSTALLATION

This projector has been rebuilt by Peter Ricketts to replicate one of the two that were used at the Yallourn Theatre from 1939 to the late 1970s. Projectors always came in pairs, to enable changing sequential spools of film – called, “the changeover” – without disrupting the film projection.

Legend has it that the first film screened at the Yallourn Theatre in 1939 was *Gone with the Wind* (USA, 1940) but it was in fact *Sweethearts* (USA, 1938, starring Jeanette MacDonald). *Gone with the Wind* was the final film screened. These three film trunks carry the spools of film for *Gone with the Wind* as if they are bound for the purported first screening at the Yallourn Theatre. There are twelve spools in total, and this does not include the cartoon, newsreel and trailers (or “coming attractions”). Who would have thought that there would be so many reels of film for one feature?

After a film had screened at a cinema, the film trunks were often left out the front of the building to be collected and taken to the next cinema for screening. Peter Ricketts tells us that over the years many people have wondered why the trunks of film were never stolen. The answer to this is due to their weight. Imagine trying to run off with a 30 kilogram trunk of film! An alternative transportation for films was the large metal case we see here. This box was used to transport the film, *Sweethearts* – the first film shown at The Yallourn Theatre.

35mm Film Projector

Raycophone 35mm film projector, 1939. This is a reconstruction of one of the pair of projectors from the Yallourn Theatre.

Three Film Trunks: *Gone with the Wind*

Three octagonal metal boxes affixed with yellow labels specifying the film title and the number of film reels. Weight equals the number of reels contained within.

Trunk One: film spools 1–5

32kg, 40 x 40 x 27.5cm

Trunk Two: film spools 6–9

25kg, 40 x 40 x 22.5cm

Trunk Three: film spools 10–12

21kg, 40 x 40 x 17.5cm

Film Box: *Sweethearts*

35kg, 44 x 44 x 30cm

Photograph of Yallourn Theatre Bio Box

Yallourn Theatre operations room, copy Date and photographer unknown. All courtesy of Peter Ricketts

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The Cinemas Project: Exploring the Spectral Spaces of Cinema in Regional Victoria. Five Artists / Five Projects / Five Evocations of Cinema, April to August 2014, commissioned by NETS Victoria, curated by Bridget Crone.

Lily Hibberd, *Twin Cinema: 4 Devils and a Woman in Red*, Latrobe Regional Gallery, 12 April to 8 June 2014.

Catalogue and text: Bridget Crone, Lily Hibberd.

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THE CINEMAS PROJECT

Lily Hibberd

TWIN CINEMA

4 Devils and a Woman in Red

Twin Cinema – 4 Devils and a Woman in Red is an exhibition of remnants and memories from cinemas in the Gippsland region. Lily has collected local stories, objects, posters and photographs from surviving and lost cinemas, activated here. Large-scale recreations of the empty screens of the disappeared theatres of Yallourn and the Morwell Town Hall await projections of movie memories.

Lily is a visual artist and writer, practising in performance, painting, photography, video and installation. She works in collaboration with communities and artists to tell old and new stories based on places, memories and histories. She has been working in and around the sites of cinema in Gippsland for more than a year, interviewing people with memories of cinema-going in Morwell and Yallourn and The Regent Theatre, Yarram.

The Cinemas Project

Lily Hibberd's exhibition is presented as part of *The Cinemas Project* curated by Bridget Crone – new contemporary art works by five of Australia's leading artists who include: Brook Andrew, Mikala Dwyer, Bianca Hester and Tom Nicholson taking place across Victoria from April to

August 2014. The artwork produced for *The Cinemas Project* takes the form of live performance and film replicating the nature of the activity that once took place in many of the early cinema buildings which were at once a meeting place, a theatre, a dance hall as well as a cinema.

The Cinemas Project responds to what we have termed, the spectral spaces of cinema. Spectral suggests ghosts, apparitions, colour and light but is also linked to day dreaming, speculation and, of course, imagination. The “spectral spaces of cinema” therefore refers to the diverse temporal spaces that are opened up both within the narratives of film, and by acts of reminiscence and memory. *The Cinemas Project* is therefore not a collection of works about cinema but a series of works that approach ideas of what cinema is, has been and could be...

The Cinemas Project is an ongoing research project to map, document and activate the lost spaces of cinema in regional Victoria. To find out more about *The Cinema Project* events and exhibitions please visit our website www.thecinemasproject.com.au

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MORWELL TOWN HALL THEATRE BANNER

Reproduction of Morwell Town Hall Theatre interior, 1936

20 x 24cm (original)

Inscription verso: AG Leith & Associates (photographer?)

Banner print 310 x 500cm

Courtesy Morwell Historical Society, Len Hare Collection

YALLOURN THEATRE BANNER

Reproduction of Yallourn Theatre interior

Date unknown, photographer unknown

Banner print 310 x 500 cm

Photograph courtesy Old Brown Coal Mine Museum

YALLOURN THEATRE DEMOLITION BANNER

Reproduction of Yallourn Theatre in process of demolition

Photographer unknown, c1980

Banner print 260 x 400cm

Photograph courtesy Julie George, Virtual Yallourn website

4 DEVILS – HELL AND HIGH WATER

Single channel digital video, created by Lily Hibberd, 2014

11:24

Story of the rise and fall of the first movie theatres in Gippsland. Performers: Margery Missen and Holly Jonson. Assistant camera, Wyatt Kilgower.

CABINET ONE & WALL CABINET ONE

The mechanics of projection

In this cabinet we see part of the hidden workings of a 35mm film projector specifically the mechanism that created and projected light through the films; this is called a carbon arc lamp. In front of the elliptical mirror you will see two rods – a positive and negative electrode of carbon. These cast a fierce flame by transmitting and receiving electricity. This flame is then intensified and condensed by the mirror. The filmstrip would pass through the projection gate located in front of this mechanism and the light from the carbon rods would then project through the frame of film held in the gate. The film had to keep moving though because if the film stopped even for a short time it would instantly ignite.

Peter Ricketts tells us:

These are the carbons for the arc lamps. They gradually burnt away and there are various sizes, depending on what size screen you are trying to illuminate. As they gradually burned away, they got shorter and shorter. And that's where efficiency came in because as they burned down, the small pieces, we used to have to save for Saturday Matinees. You could run it at a lower power and it would last longer because the kids wouldn't notice it.

TRESTLE TABLE

Yallourn Theatre Architectural Plans

Two plan drawings, No. 2671, No. 2672

Signed by A. R. La Gerche

50 x 105cm

Courtesy Old Brown Coal Mine Museum

Cinema Memory Books, 2014

A collection of anonymous quotes from storytellers and interviewees collected and collated by Lily Hibberd in Gippsland over two years.

VIDEO OF QUOTES / MEMORIES

Cinema Memory Video, 2014

A projected of the collected anonymous quotes contained in the three books.

Single channel video, 1:18:40

YALLOURN BRICK IN CABINET

Original brick made in Yallourn brickworks.

Donated by Steve Cox

“Columbia” brand carbon guide

Two cardboard disks on hinge

“Ship” brand carbon manual

Booklet

“Marble Arc” brand carbon arc booklet

Booklet

Six boxes of carbon rods

Branded: “Ship”, “Electrobarbonium”, “Double Eagle”, “Orlux”, “Cielor”, “Victor Arc”

Various sizes

Loose carbon rods

Various sizes, used

Carbon Arc Lamp Mechanism

Metal rods, carbon rods, elliptical mirror, motorized mechanism (in wall cabinet)

All courtesy of Peter Ricketts

CABINET TWO

Cinemascope lenses

Two Cinemascope projector anarmorphic lenses and manual

Red Cinemascope canister

Canister containing first Cinemascope newsreel produced by “Fox Movietone News”

Miniature filmstrip projector

SVE Picturol Projector – Model Q used for projecting single frames of film

Collection of canisters of filmstrips

Filmstrips for use as teaching aids and other public information, included in this box are speech notes to accompany each frame

All courtesy of Peter Ricketts

CABINET THREE

Pile of used theatre tickets

Five rolls of tickets

Rolls of unused tickets marked 30c, 80c, 10c and 1”11, respectively

Variety of printed strips for use over film posters

Paper strips printed with words such as “Next”, “Coming”, days of the week

Courtesy of Peter Ricketts

“Batman”, Village Twin

Advertisement from The Express dated 11/9/89

General advertisement, Paramount Theatre

Advertisement from The Advertiser dated 11/3/1954

General advertisement, Maya Theatre

Advertisement from The Advertiser dated 20/2/1958

Maya Theatre ticket

Paper ticket dated Tuesday 4 November

General advertisement, Village Twin

Dated 28/8/1978

General advertisement, Village Twin

The Express Thursday March 29, 1979

Collection of Morwell Historical Society

Different forms of projection and some of their components

This miniature filmstrip projector was for use in a classroom as a teaching aid. Peter Ricketts recalls using it when he was at primary school in Rosebud in the early 1950s. As a result of his great enthusiasm for the mechanics of cinema, Peter was fascinated to learn how to use this projector at a young age. Included with the miniature “Picturol Project – Model Q” are a number of filmstrips illustrating the type of material that would have been shown using this device. Also included are two reels of slide notes for presentation at a Junior Executive Clubs meeting.

Also in this cabinet are two Cinemascope lens. The Cinemascope process was introduced into Australia in 1953 for the release of the film *The Robe*. Cinemascope was introduced by 20th Century Fox, and projected a wider picture by using a cylindrical lens over a spherical lens. You will see also the red canister of the world’s first Cinemascope “Fox Movietone News”.

Ticket office, promotion and Front of House

Cabinet three shows various materials related to Front of House activities, such as advertising, promotion and ticketing. Also included are Morwell cinema advertisements: The Maya Theatre, Paramount and The Village Twin. The Maya Theatre operated from 1956 to 1962; in 1978 it reopened as The Village Twin. Opposite The Maya, in Buckley Street, was the Paramount, which operated from 1947 into the 1960s.

WALL CABINET TWO

Film advertising

In this cabinet are some of the materials required for pre-digital cinema advertising. Can you guess what this adapted clock was used for? In fact, it enabled projectionists to time the display of each glass slide, thus enabling the advertiser to have their ad shown for the paid amount of time. Too short a time and the advertiser might complain, illuminated too long risked the slide cracking or shattering!

Clock

“Val Morgan” brand wall clock

Glass slides

12 hand painted glass local Gippsland advertising slides

All courtesy of Peter Ricketts

WALL CABINETS THREE & FOUR

Keyring – Black Skivvy Film Society

The Black Skivvy Film Society was a local Morwell film club that ran alternative movies for a number of years in the early 2000s

Courtesy of Daniel Jordan

Original photograph of Peter Ricketts

Peter, aged 19, on the splicing machine at Rosebud Theatre 9 x 9cm

Courtesy of Peter Ricketts