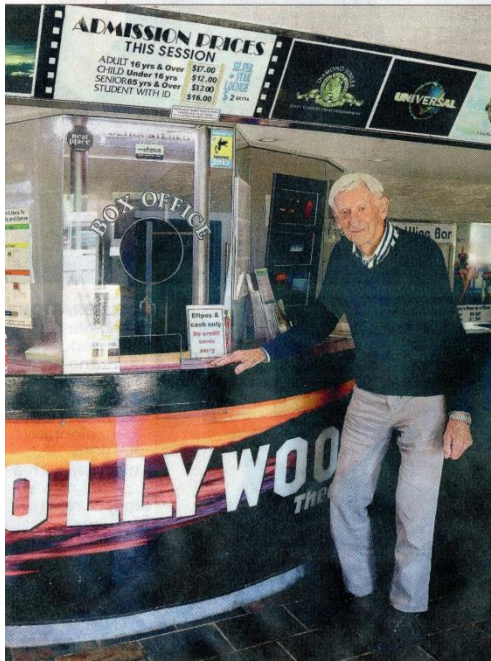


Cinema Owner is Looking for Successor

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Cinema owner is looking for successor



MOVIE BUFF: At 90-years-old, Lang Masters is still working full-time at Hollywood 3 Cinema in Sumner.
PHOTO: SAMANTHA MYTHEN

■ **By Samantha Mythen**

LANG MASTERS, long-time owner of the iconic Hollywood 3 Cinema in Sumner, has turned 90 and he's still working seven days a week.

If you stop by for a movie, you can see Lang with a big smile waiting behind the counter, usually during matinees.

On April 30, friends, family, and work colleagues, old and new, gathered at Masters' home to celebrate his birthday.

He said he is still eating the leftovers from the three-tier film reel cake made especially for him. Lang has owned the cinema for

more than 60 years. Hollywood Cinema was only open on Saturdays when Lang and his wife Maureen first took over in 1962. They painted and redecorated the 1938 building.

Only now at 90, is he considering stepping down and is looking for someone to take over his share of the business.

"It would be great if that person was interested in movies," said Lang.

"I would hate to see the theatre pulled down."

Even if it is sold, Lang said he would still pop in if they needed him.

"I enjoy working here – it

keeps you alive," he said.

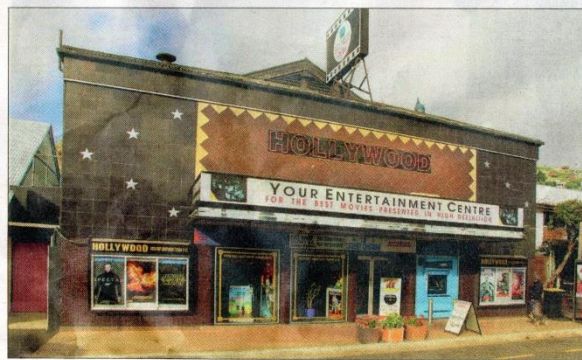
Although Covid has resulted in a movie shortage, Lang said people have continued to support the theatre.

"It would be great to see more visitors though."

Lang has been running theatres around the country since he was a teen. He attended Christchurch Boys' High School and hosted movies on 16mm film for friends in his parent's garage.

In 1981, at the height of Lang and Maureen's cinematic empire, they ran seven cinemas in Christchurch.

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LEGACY: Lang Masters has owned Hollywood 3 Cinema since 1962.
PHOTO: GEOFF SLOAN

'A very enjoyable life'

"The hard part is making sure you pick the right films," he said. "Here, we do better with arty films not blood-thirsty action films."

In 2013, Lang won a New Zealand Motion Picture Industry Council award for service to the industry.

The Hollywood Cinema first

opened in 1938 and has been screening movies since then. A second screen was added in 1976 and a third in 1999.

In 2014, the cinema won the people's choice award for the best independent cinema at the New Zealand Motion Picture Awards.

In his home on Scarborough

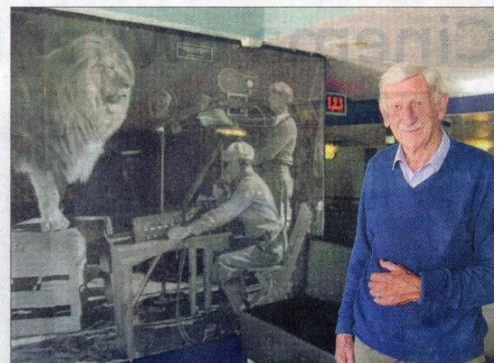
Hill, Lang has his own theatre, where friends and family visit.

Lang's personal favourite genre is musicals – *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma* – movies accompanied by a chocolate dipped ice cream.

Lang said running theatres with his wife Maureen has made it a very enjoyable life.



EMPIRE: Lang and Maureen Masters once ran seven movie theatres in Christchurch.



CELEBRATIONS

Lang Masters still works full-time at Hollywood 3 Cinema in Sumner. He has just celebrated his 90th birthday with a special movie reel cake.