

DANGEROUS WHEN WET

the musical



A vaudeville musical comedy
Randwick Town Hall 8-18 October 2026

**The story of rival swimmers Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie
and their fight to swim at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics!**

DANGEROUS WHEN WET - THE MUSICAL: PRESS KIT/BACKGROUNDER

WHAT IS 'DANGEROUS WHEN WET'?

The fabulously funny, brand-new, all-Australian, vaudeville-styled musical comedy, **Dangerous When Wet**, is set to take Sydney by storm in **October 2026**. It celebrates the friendship and rivalry of swimmers Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie and their fight to represent Australia and – ultimately - win Gold and Silver in the 100m women's freestyle at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics.

Boasting an insanely talented all-female cast, this hilarious and touching show will have you laughing, crying, singing along to dangerously catchy tunes... and rejoicing in Sydney's stellar swimming history.

Developed over several years by award-winning creators Eliane Morel, Merran Hughes, Joanna Weinberg and Daryl Wallis - including a Randwick Town Hall 'takeover' creative development (where it was described as 'Better than Hamilton!') - this is a world-premiere you won't want to miss.

WHERE: Randwick Town Hall | WHEN: 8th to 18th October, 2026

BOOKINGS and INFORMATION: www.dangerouswhenwet.com.au

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE PLAY

Dangerous When began its life as a play, written during COVID by Eliane Morel and Merran Hughes, inspired by writing and swimming at Wylie's Baths, Coogee. Our research into the women's swimming movement of the early 20th Century revealed an Australia where women were really starting to spread their wings: they had just won the vote; they were starting to move out of corsets and bloomers into one-piece swimsuits; they were fighting to swim at mixed pools with men; they were finding a voice and a way to express themselves intellectually and physically.



While the play was never produced, the research led to Merran creating an exhibition, 'Sydney's Mermaids', held at Leichhardt Library, where viewers got the chance to deep dive(!) into this fascinating history. When Eliane and Merran gave a talk at the exhibition, audience members asked: 'What are you planning to do with all this research now?'

In that moment, Eliane realised the answer was: "Our dream is to write a musical... with Joanna Weinberg!"

TURNING HISTORY INTO A MUSICAL

A 2024 Waverley Council grant helped turn that dream into a reality, providing the funds to allow composer-director Joanna Weinberg (who specialises in historical shows about strong women) to come on board.



Using the original play as a starting point, Jo's brilliant idea was to make it Vaudeville-style – incorporating all the musical styles of this time – from Gilbert and Sullivan patter songs, to operetta to boogie-woogie, blues, honky-tonk and jazz, and including performance styles such as clowning, male/female drag, melodrama, comic double-acts... and always plenty of audience participation.

Jo rapidly wrote 14 songs, then, with a Randwick Council Town Hall Takeover grant, Daryl Wallis as musical director/arranger, and 4 amazing performers, we creatively developed over 1 week, culminating in performing a 5-song taster of the show to a full house of 250 locals. Photo at left!

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CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS

The response to the creative development performances was a tidal wave of positivity. Audiences declared it 'Better than *Hamilton*'!

In particular patrons said they loved:

- Local history being brought to life in a fabulously entertaining manner;
- Celebrating under-recognised Australian sporting heroines;
- The broad-brush, comic vaudeville style;
- Audience involvement - being directed to 'Cheer wildly!', 'Boo!', 'Say Aye!', and sing along;
- The *dangerously* memorable tunes
- Seeing Randwick Town Hall's glorious golden proscenium arch being featured and celebrated.

And – overwhelmingly - they *ALL* said they wanted to see the whole show in 2026!

SO.... HERE IT IS!

Now, with the support of our Sydney community, including sponsors Randwick Council, Wylie's Baths, Bondi Icebergs, Sea Level Swimwear and 3 x Gold Medalist Bronte Campbell as our Olympic Ambassador, we are staging a full production of 12 shows.

Boasting a stunning all-female cast, this is going to be THE musical for Sydneysiders to catch in 2026! Featured performers include fabulous drag king (in true vaudeville style) **Jacinta Gregory** as Cecil Healy, burlesque legend **Megan Walshe** as Annette Kellerman, Hayes Theatre star **Cypriana Singh** as Fanny Durack, recent NIDA graduate and rising star **Grace Trainor** as Mina Wylie, sweet-faced, powerful-voiced **Addy Roberts** as Jennie Fletcher, hilarious character actor **Annerose de Jong** as sports entrepreneur Mrs Mack and opera diva **Eliane Morel** as misunderstood villain Rose Scott.

Location: Randwick Town Hall

Previews: Thursday 8th October, 11am and 7pm

Season: Opening Night, Friday 9th October, 7pm

Saturday 10th October, 7pm

Sunday 11th October, 5pm

Wednesday 14th October, 2pm and 7pm

Thursday 15th October, 7pm

Friday 16th October, 7pm

Saturday 17th October, 2pm and 7pm

Sunday 18th October, 5pm



Bookings: www.dangerouswhenwet.com.au

The full media release is available under separate cover.

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All photos by Andrew Worssam