

Dangerous When Wet – The Musical



The inspiring story of Australia's pioneering female swimmers, Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie, brought to the stage of Randwick Town Hall as a vaudeville-style musical.

Follow the friendship, the rivalry, the struggles against sexism, and the journey that took the women to the 1912 Stockholm Olympics.

Script

Eliane Morel and Merran Hughes

Music and lyrics

Joanna Weinberg

Arrangements

Daryl Wallis



Cast

Megan Walshe

Narrator Annette Kellerman, Man 1 in Balls in the Air, Fish Fingers Synchronised Swimmer 1

Cypriana Singh

Fanny Durack, Man 2 in Balls in the Air, Fish Fingers Synchronised Swimmer 2

Grace Trainor

Mina Wylie, Man 3 in Balls in the Air, Fish Fingers Synchronised Swimmer 3

Jacinta Gregory

Cecil Healy, Man 4 in Balls in the Air

Addy Robertson

Edie, Chief Sign-Holder, Jennie Fletcher, Woman in Balls in the Air, Fish Fingers Synchronised Swimmer 4

Annerose de Jong

Mrs Marion McIntosh, Swedish Tourist Jasper Bjornsen, British Royal 1, Male Olympic Athlete 1

Eliane Morel

Rose Scott, Alick Wickham, Swedish Tourist Bjorn Jaspersen, British Royal 2, Male Olympic Athlete 2

Vida Cullen

Poseidon the Seahorse, Understudy for the roles of Mina Wylie and Fanny Durack

Daryl Wallis

Pianist Dickie Hughes

Behind the Scenes

Director

Joanna Weinberg

Musical Director

Daryl Wallis

Choreographer

Megan Walshe

Sets, Costumes and Props

Merran Hughes

Lighting and Sound

Robin Crisp
Floyd Ives (Lighting)
Zac Roberts (Sound)

Stage Manager

Michi Fifer

Assistant Stage Manager

Lara Snashel

Annette Kellerman's Costumes

Lyndal Loves

Assistant Costume and Props

Pearl Ives, Dnita Batchelor, Harriet Ferguson and Sue Midgely

Publicity

Geoff Sirmay Arts Marketing

Producers

Eliane Morel, Merran Hughes and Joanna Weinberg

Acknowledgements

- Randwick City Council
- Randwick Arts Team
- Wylie's Baths
- The Women's Club
- Bondi Icebergs
- Sea Level Swimwear
- Bronte Campbell (Olympic Ambassador)

Thankyou to all the wonderful patrons who donated to support this show.

Thankyou to all our friends, colleagues and families who have supported this endeavour in so many ways.

Program

Act 1

Scene 1: Bondi Baths Swimming Carnival

Song 1: *Dangerous When Wet* (Fanny Durack and Mina Wylie)

Scene 2: Mina's bedroom, Coogee, and Durack's Hotel, Surry Hills

Song 2: *Storm in Me* (Fanny and Mina)

Scene 3: Somewhere in Sydney

Song 3: *Significant Event* (Mrs Marion McIntosh, Cecil Healy, Edie, Fanny and Mina)

Scene 4: Mina's Bedroom, Coogee

Song 4: *Swimsuit Sister* (Annette, Mina)

Scene 5: Domain Baths

Song 5: *History of the Crawl - or - Porpoise with a Purpose* (Cecil, Fanny and Alick Wickham)

Scene 6: Rushcutters Bay Baths Carnival

Song 6: *One and Two* (Fanny and Mina, Mrs Mack, Rose and Edie)

Scene 7: Randwick Town Hall Meeting

Song 7: *Rose Scott Objects – or - Your Preposterous Olympic Fantasy* (Rose)

Scene 8: Bondi Baths Fundraising Carnival

Song 8: *Perfect Woman* (Annette)

Song 9: *Put Them Back in their Bathing Machines* (Men 1, 2, 3, and 4, and Woman)

Scene 9: Cliffs of Bondi

Song 10: *Bright Bondi Moon* (Mina)

INTERVAL

Act 2

Scene 1: On board a ship to Europe

Song 11: *Fanny on the Ship – or – What Have I Done?* (Fanny)

Scene 2: The London Bath Club

Song 12: *Everybody Loves a Mermaid* (Fanny and Jennie Fletcher)

Scene 3: The Olympic Village, Stockholm

Song 13: *The Olympiska Spelen* (Cecil and Athletes 1 & 2)

Scene 4: The Olympic Games Opening

Song 14: *Beneath the Midnight Sun* (Annette, Cecil, Jennie, Athletes 1 & 2)

Scene 5: The Olympic Village, Day 6

Song 15: *What's a Medal Worth?* (Fanny and Mina)

Scene 6: The Olympics, Ladies 100m Freestyle Final

Scene 7: Sydney

Song 16: *Tickertape March* (all cast)

The Story Behind *Dangerous When Wet*

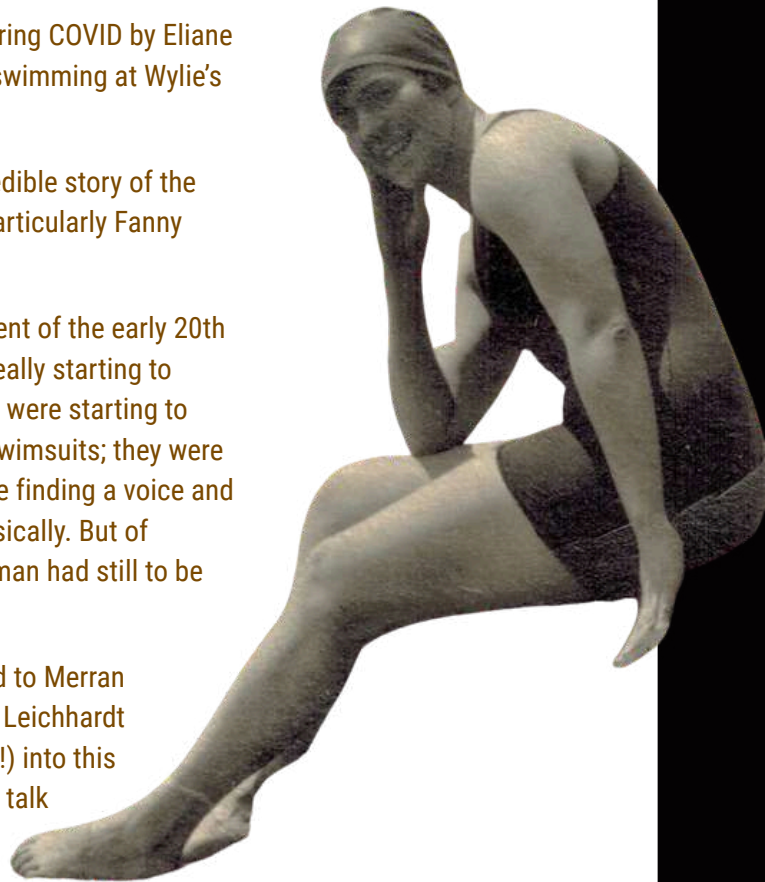
Dangerous When began its life as a play, written during COVID by Eliane Morel and Merran Hughes, inspired by writing and swimming at Wylie's Baths, Coogee.

Their central idea was to bring back to life the incredible story of the early pioneers in Australian women's swimming - particularly Fanny Durack, Annette Kellerman and Mina Wylie.

Their 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. But of course, old ideas about what was 'proper' for a woman had still to be overcome.

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?'

At the time, Eliane was performing in Joanna Weinberg's wonderful *Folk Cabaret*, *The Millers Point Songbook*, and 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 Joanna (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.

New characters were introduced, and a whole new story arc emerged, including misunderstood villain and President of the NSW Ladies Amateur Swimming Association Rose Scott, sports entrepreneur Marion McIntosh, journalist Cecil Healy, originator of the crawl stroke Alick Wickham, and British swimming champion Jennie Fletcher.

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

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, and many amazing donors, we are staging a full production of 12 shows.

Boasting a stunning all-female cast, this is 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, opera diva Eliane Morel as misunderstood villain Rose Scott and Conservatorium of Music student Vida Cullen as Poseidon the Seahorse and understudy to Fanny and Mina.

We are so thrilled to be presenting this show. It is beyond our wildest dreams to have such a dream cast and such wonderful songs, telling this truly Australian story. Our ambition is to tour Australia.

Thank you for being a part of such a great story.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In our digital world it has become a rarity to be present with each other. To sit together, off our devices, experiencing magic. Sharing emotions through our collective humanity is the point of live theatre. In every work I do, I try to include you, the audience through singing, cheering and, in this case, voting. I want it to be a 360 degree experience. I prefer to steer clear of technology on the stage so that we can better approach the state of 'play' which is natural to all mammalian creatures. Your imagination has to work to believe that our cast are swimming on a wooden stage. A piece of cloth can be a cloud or a river, a robe or a crown. We know it as children but adult life sucks it out of us. Enter *Dangerous When Wet*, a tale lovingly extracted by Eliane Morel and Merran Hughes from the murky soup of history. One talented pianist and 8 singers bound ecstatically towards the footlights for your entertainment and edification. Imagination engaged! But why am I telling you this? You're already here, waiting for the fun to begin. Vaudeville, Music Hall and Pantomime, all dear to my directorial heart, were the styles of the period and they're all rolled up into one tonight. A note on the music.

As composer and lyricist for *The Millers Point Songbook* in 2023, a musical history of the Sydney suburb of that name, I was comfortable in the world of piano and voice. At the turn of the 20th century many households boasted pianos as their sole entertainment and Sydney was no exception. Thus we have only the talented Daryl Wallis as our orchestra. I have stretched historical accuracy a bit with futuristic ragtime rhythms and old time Gilbert and Sullivan-esque patter songs. To write the conflicted inner worlds of Fanny and Mina, I had to anachronistically leap into the contemporary world of musical theatre – in 1912 parlour songs sung by women tended towards the humorous or the sentimental.

I am fond of the saying 'strong is the new pretty' as it pertains to young women. I feel such a joyful power emanating from this cast, it feels like the right way to tell a story about three powerful sporting legends.

Joanna Weinberg
5 October 2026

Cast and Creatives CVs

Merran Hughes (Writer/Producer, Set and Costume Designer) is a multi-disciplinary creative: visual artist, historian, writer and competitive swimmer with a particular interest in ocean conservation and swimming culture. She has a Master of Design from UNSW and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UNSW and was a co-founder of the Alice Springs Beanie Festival.

Her art practice focuses on brass sculpture, painting and digital media. Her work has been exhibited in several galleries including Mosman Art Gallery, Hazelhurst, and Bondi Pavilion. She has also curated numerous exhibitions and completed residencies on the Pitjantjatjara lands. A major achievement was the co-curated Colours of the Country exhibition, which toured Australia's regional galleries, including the National Gallery, for more than 3 years. Merran won a Regional Arts Australia award for a sustained contribution to the arts. Merran also worked with the 4WD theatre in Darwin creating large scale puppets.

In 2021, with Eliane Morel, she wrote the play *Dangerous When Wet*, then in 2024 mounted the Sydney Mermaids exhibition based on the research for the play, at Leichhardt Public Library.

Merran is also co-founder of Blue World, a non-profit organisation whose mission is to catalyse positive change for a thriving ocean.



Eliane Morel (Writer/Producer and Performer – Rose Scott/Alick Wickham) is a writer, actor, singer and producer with several plays, musical and cabarets under her belt. She studied voice at the Canberra School of Music, has a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies from UNSW and a Diploma in Playwriting from NIDA.

She has written and performed two award-winning and widely toured cabarets with Daryl Wallis: *Disenchanted: A Cabaret of Twisted Fairy Tales* (Best Show, Newcastle and Dubbo Fringes 2021; Nominated for Best Cabaret, Melbourne Fringe 2022) and *Carmen the Cabaret* (Best Artistic Merit, Newcastle Fringe 2024). Eliane is principal mezzo-soprano with Sydney's favourite boutique opera company, Opera Bites, with whom she performs Opera in the Pub every month at the Keg and Brew Hotel (among other performances). She has also played roles in numerous shows for other companies, including most recently Joanna Weinberg's critically acclaimed musicals *La Luna* and *The Millers Point Songbook*, Terrapin Puppet Theatre's *The Story of Chi*.



Joanna Weinberg (Composer/Director): has been creating and performing musical theatre, cabaret and film for over three decades.

A prolific composer/writer, she has created, recorded and performed dozens of cabaret shows including *Pandora's Bag*, (Hayes Theatre Cabaret Festival) *The Piano Diaries*, (Melbourne Cabaret Festival) *Baroness Bianka's Bloodsongs*, (Hayes Festival) and *The Secret Singer* (Eternity Playhouse), all of which were critically acclaimed and have travelled widely. Her musical about IVF – *Lifeforce – the Mother of all journeys*, directed by Lisa Freshwater , won the Sydney Fringe Best Musical in 2013. The film *Goddess*, based on her one woman show *Sinksongs*, directed by Mark Lamprell, proved popular with audiences worldwide and earned her a Critics Circle nomination for best music in a feature film.

Recently, Joanna's musicals, *La Luna* (2023) and *The Millers Point Songbook* (2024), have received critical acclaim and sold-out houses. Joanna also directs three community choirs: Choir Rocks in Miller's point, Bay Singers in Mosman and The Cleftomaniacs in Waterloo.



Daryl Wallis (Musical Director, Arranger and Accompanist) is a composer, sound designer, keyboard musician, vocal coach and musical director. He has composed music for Belvoir, Ensemble, Griffin, Merrigong, Studio, ATYP, Monkey Baa, CDP, Milkcrate, Karnak and Siren Theatre companies, the television documentary series *Heat in the Kitchen*, the award winning short film *Embrace*, a 10-minute tango-opera *An/nA*, and an operatic adaptation of the children's picture book, *Fox*, that toured throughout Australia. He won first prize in the 2012 Federation Bells Composing Competition and won the 2013 Sydney Theatre Award for best Score and Sound Design in a Mainstage Production with Elena Kats-Chernin for their work on the Ensemble Theatre Co production of *Frankenstein*. He won a Green Room Award as musical director for the *Strange Bedfellows*. He is musical director and arranger for The Flannelette Band, and has been musical director for cabarets with Annaliesa Rose, Mitchell Butel, Jenny Vuletic, Russ Vickery, Eliane Morel, Pamela Shaw, Michelle Collins, Meow Meow, Jacqui Dark and *Strange Bedfellows*.



Megan Walshe (Choreographer and Performer – Annette Kellerman) is a multidisciplinary entertainer with over 10 years of professional experience. She is a certified triple threat with a Bachelor Of Music specialising in Music Theatre, and blends her wealth of skills into every performance. Most recently she toured with the critically acclaimed comedy musical *Fuccbois Live In Concert* as Tyler and Dance Captain to Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne Comedy Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2026 and Soho Theatre London.

This versatile vixen also performs under the stage name Songbird Siren, holding the 2024 title for MX Burlesque Sydney 2024. She is the Producer/Writer/Choreographer/Star of the Cabaret *Confessions Of A Drama Queen* with rave reviews from its season at Hayes Theatre Co, and won Best Cabaret and Music Theatre at Sydney Fringe 2025.

Songbird has also worked internationally as a Lead Singer for Universal Studios Japan, and RWS in *Rock Circus* and *The Rise Of Houdini*.



Cypriana Singh (Fanny Durack) is a singer, actor and creative based on Gadigal land.

Currently Cypriana is a resident Singer aboard Sydney Showboats. She played the role of Erzulie the Goddess of Love in *Once on This Island* (Hayes Theatre) and was the Swing in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, flexing her memory muscles and spelling skills while covering four roles. She's passionate about performing for children, having spent most of 2024 touring and bouncing with children's music group The Beanies.

Her screen credits include the short film *Bernice* (Hopeful Goose Creative) as Jemima. Stage credits include *Forgotten*, touring to Hobart Playhouse, where she played Irish convict Pheobe; *Fergus Ferry* (dir. Liesel Badorrek) as Angus; *Nails Must Be Kept Short: The Warm Up* (Fruitbox Theatre), where she played the lead role of Bec; and multiple workshop and performance iterations of *Fraser Babies* (The Joy Offensive). Other theatre credits include *Ugly Love* (Acoustic Theatre Troupe) as Lola and *Work of Art* (Little Triangle) as rockstar-architect Eero Saarinen.

Cypriana holds a BA in Music Theatre, was a semi-finalist in the Rob Guest Endowment in 2018, is a graduate of the Talent Development Project (TDP), and a proud member of Actors' Equity.



Grace Trainor (Mina Wylie) Born and raised in Perth, Grace now lives in Sydney, having recently completed NIDA's Diploma of Musical Theatre which solidified her love for performing and creating. She has been strongly engaged with theatre since childhood – starting in Stagecoach Performing Arts and moving on to WAAPA Sunday courses throughout school, before joining Perth's Midnite Youth Theatre Company. Her roles include Karen in *Mean Girls* and Sarah in *Guys and Dolls*. She also performs regularly with her band The Gracenotes, where she sings, and plays trumpet, performing jazz covers and original songs. Grace is thrilled to be a part of this new Australian musical, bringing the icon Mina Wylie to the stage.



Jacinta Gregory (Cecil Healy) is a practising queer theatre maker, comedian and writer from Western Sydney, living and creating works in inner Sydney. They have a wide range of skills and experience, from comedy and music composition through to musical theatre performance. They have toured to Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne Comedy Festivals, and regularly perform in Sydney as a stand-up comic, storyteller and drag king.

Jacinta recently starred in the award-winning web series, *On The Fringe* (Best International Screenplay for Copenhagen Web Fest) which was also officially selected for the Pilot Light TV Festival. They wrote and composed *Holt! The Musical* (Seymour Centre) and performed their sell-out work theatrical work *My Intervention* at the Old Fitz Theatre as part of its late night program. They recently starred in a series of improvised musicals with Hayes Theatre and Improv Theatre Sydney, to sold out crowds. Jacinta takes pride in telling Australian stories from a diverse perspective, always in the most stupid way possible.



Addy Robertson (Jennie Fletcher/Edie) is a dynamic, Sydney-based Non-binary performer with a deep rooted passion for Cabaret and Musical Theatre. They hold a BMus (Musical Theatre) from AIM (2023) and have since continued their artistic journey internationally, after being accepted in 2025 to the Musical Theatre Summer Program at RADA in London.

Addy has performed in a range of productions across Sydney. They are most notably recognised for their performance in Craig Baldwin's production of *The Turn of The Screw* (Hayes Theatre Co.), where they had their operatic debut performing in the role of Miles. They have also debuted cabaret nights such as *Home Grown* and *They's at the Hayes*, as well as being a part of Little Triangles sold out cabaret season of *Judy* (2025) in collaboration with Hayes Theatre Co. They have also most recently appeared in the sell-out Sydney Fringe season of *Definitely not a Hungry Game*.



In addition to stage performances, Addy showcased their creativity as both writer and star of their solo cabaret, *Themme Fatale: The Final Strip* (QTOPIA Sydney for Live at the Bandstand, 2023).

Annerose de Jong (Mrs Mack) is a theatre-maker, performer and educator with more than 35 years' experience in performance, drama teaching, directing and design. As Artistic Director of Imagination Theatre, a local drama school in Earlwood, she inspires young people aged 5 to 18 to explore their creativity, build confidence and develop communication skills through theatre. The school offers engaging drama classes and intensive five-day workshops during the school holidays, giving students the opportunity to devise and present original performances.

Annerose is committed to inclusive arts practice. In Bankstown, she teaches and creates shows with people with disability, using collaborative theatre-making to celebrate imagination, individual expression and the unique contribution of every performer.

Her own performance career spans theatre, music, dance, mask, puppetry and physical storytelling, with work presented in Australia and overseas. Alongside director and composer Joanna Weinberg, Annerose has appeared in the musicals *La Luna* and *The Millers Point Song Book*, bringing local stories and memorable characters to the stage through song and performance. She also performs regularly with the community ensemble Choir Rocks. Across all her work, Annerose brings warmth, energy and extensive experience to creating theatre that connects people, nurtures talent and makes participation accessible, joyful and meaningful for communities throughout Sydney and beyond.



Vida Cullen (Poseidon the Seahorse) is an emerging singer/songwriter and performer, currently studying at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she has performed in the Con's productions of *Netball: the Musical* as Goal Shooter and *The Drowsy Chaperone* as ensemble. Vida is a graduate of the prestigious Talent Development Project, a selective program supporting young artists and songwriters transitioning into the music industry. She was lucky enough to record her original *Go On* at Studio 301 in Alexandria and showcase her song at the ICC Sydney Pyrmont Theatre in 2023 with 11 other graduates. She is now a part of the Mouth Trap choir led by Sydney musician Tanya Sparke, and will perform in upcoming concerts in Newcastle and Erskineville. She cannot wait to play Poseidon the seahorse and showcase a unique part of Sydney's aquatic life.



