FROM ADVERSITY TO TRIUMPH ON THE WORLD STAGE

BY BETH TAYLOR

Annette Kellerman is an icon in Australian history. From her humble beginnings as a swimming champion, Kellerman became a world-renowned actress, stunt performer, and vaudeville performer. Her story is extraordinary: champion swimmer and Olympic swimmer, vaudeville performer, international star, and one of the first women to appear nude in a movie. She was ahead of her time in so many ways, and Kellerman included swimming as a form of exercise and a way to overcome adversity. She was a true trailblazer, and we salute Annette Kellerman – Australia’s Fearless Mermaid.

STANDARDS AND CONTEMPORARIES

From her early days as a swimming champion to her success in Hollywood, Kellerman was a trailblazer. She was one of the first women to appear nude in a movie, and she performed all of her own stunts in her movies, including a 20-metre dive into the ocean with her hands and feet bound. She was a true artist, and her performances were breathtaking.

THROWN TO THE CROCODILES

In 1914, Kellerman starred in the film "Neptune's Daughter," and her performance in the scene where she is thrown into a pool with six crocodiles was remarkable. The movie was a hit, and Kellerman’s performance was praised by critics.

PERFECT PIONEER

Kellerman was an innovator in the world of film and entertainment. She was one of the first women to appear nude in a movie, and she performed all of her own stunts, including a 20-metre dive into the ocean. Her performances were breathtaking, and she was a true trailblazer.

STARDOM AND CONTROVERSY

Kellerman’s story is filled with both triumph and controversy. She was a passionate advocate for women’s health and in 1909 she formulated a mail-order diet for women. She was also a sex symbol of the early 1900s, and she kept her sense of humour about being dubbed ‘the Perfectly Formed Woman’ by the New York Times.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Kellerman faced many challenges throughout her life, but she was determined to succeed. She was a champion swimmer and Olympic swimmer, and she performed all of her own stunts in her movies.

SILENT MOVIE STAR

Kellerman was a true trailblazer, and her performances in silent films were breathtaking. She was one of the first women to appear nude in a movie, and she performed all of her own stunts.

MERMAID – silent movie star Annette Kellerman.

A compendium about the extraordinary life of Annette Kellerman. Includes footage courtesy Michael Cordell and Cinesound. BY BETH TAYLOR. The list of Annette Kellerman’s achievements is awe-inspiring. From swimming champion to movie star, Kellerman was a true trailblazer and her story is extraordinary. Kellerman was one of the first women to appear nude in a movie, and she performed all of her own stunts.

THROWBACKS TO THE 1940S

Kellerman was a true trailblazer, and her performances in silent films were breathtaking. She was one of the first women to appear nude in a movie, and she performed all of her own stunts.

SILENT FILMS

Kellerman was a true trailblazer, and her performances in silent films were breathtaking. She was one of the first women to appear nude in a movie, and she performed all of her own stunts.

STAGE

Kellerman was a true trailblazer, and her performances in silent films were breathtaking. She was one of the first women to appear nude in a movie, and she performed all of her own stunts.

FROM ADVERSITY TO TRIUMPH ON THE WORLD STAGE

Annette Kellerman is an icon in Australian history. From her humble beginnings as a swimming champion, Kellerman became a world-renowned actress, stunt performer, and vaudeville performer. Her story is extraordinary: champion swimmer and Olympic swimmer, vaudeville performer, international star, and one of the first women to appear nude in a movie. She was ahead of her time in so many ways, and Kellerman included swimming as a form of exercise and a way to overcome adversity. She was a true trailblazer, and we salute Annette Kellerman – Australia’s Fearless Mermaid.

Discover more about Annette Kellerman and her extraordinary life in this exhibition. Includes footage courtesy Michael Cordell and Cinesound. BY BETH TAYLOR.