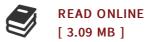




# Race and the Modern Exotic: Three Australian Women on Global Display (Paperback)

By Angela Woollacott

Monash University Publishing, Australia, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Annette Kellerman, Rose Quong and Merle Oberon were internationally successful Australian performers of the first half of the twentieth century. Kellerman was a swimmer, diver, lecturer, and silent-film star, Quong an actor, lecturer and writer who forged a career in London and New York, and Oberon one of the most celebrated film stars of the 1930s and 1940s, first in London and then Hollywood. Through her international vaudeville performances and film roles, Kellerman played with the quasi-racial identity of South Sea Islander. Quong built a career based on her own body, through a careful appropriation of Orientalism. Her body was the signifier of her Chinese authenticity, the essentialist foundation for her constructed, diasporic Chinese identity. The official story of Oberons origins was that she was Tasmanian. However, this was a publicity story concocted at the beginning of her film career to mask her lower-class, Anglo-Indian birth. Despite anxious undercurrents about her exoticism, Australians were thrilled to claim a true Hollywood star as one of their own. These three women performers created newly modern, racially ambiguous Australian femininities. Racial thinking was at the...



#### Reviews

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