

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE3706

## Kelly, Ethel Knight

(1875 - 1949)

<b>Born</b>	18750128, St John New Brunswick Canada
<b>Died</b>	19490922, Darlinghurst Sydney New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Actor, Author

### Summary

Ethel Kelly graced the stage at St John in Canada in 1893, to great acclaim. She was married young, but widowed shortly afterward, and used her maiden name in subsequent acting work in the United States. She arrived in Sydney in 1903, and, after touring with a production of *Are You a Mason?*, married metal merchant Thomas Herbert Kelly. An energetic woman, Ethel Kelly organised fancy-dress balls, acted in matinee productions to raise money for hospitals, wrote her own plays, took on work as a journalist for *Smith's Weekly* (she conducted the woman's page from 1922-23), and wrote two novels – *Why the Sphinx Smiles* (1925) and *Zara* (1927) – and a memoir, *Twelve Milestones* (1929).

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Kelly, Ethel Knight (1875-1949), Rutledge, Martha, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090553b.htm>

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Book

Frivolous Peeps at India, Kelly, Ethel, 1911

Twelve Milestones: being the peregrinations of Ethel Knight Kelly, Kelly, Ethel Knight, 1929

#### Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,  
<https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwomen.org.au/>

#### Author Details

Barbara Lemon

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