

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: IMP0157

Lawrence, Marjorie Florence

(1909 - 1979)

Born 17 February, 1909, Dean's Marsh Victoria Australia

Died 14 January, 1979

Occupation Singer, Soprano

Summary

Opera singer Marjorie Lawrence contracted poliomyelitis in 1941 and was almost crippled in both legs, but continued to perform using a wheel chair placed on stage. During World War II she entertained the troops and was awarded the cross of the Legion d' Honneur (1946) by the French government. On 31 December 1976 Marjorie Lawrence was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for her services to the performing arts.

Events

1945 - 1945

Entertained troops in Europe

1941 - 1941

Married Dr Thomas King, New York

1960 -

Professor of Voice and Opera Workshop, Southern Illinois University

1971 - 1971

Opera Theatre Southern Illinois University named for Marjorie Lawrence

1942 - 1942

First public appearance as Venus in *Tannhauser* at the Metropolitan

1944 - 1944

Entertained troops in Australia and South West Pacific (50,000 miles wheel concert tour)

1928 - 1928

Winner of the *Sun* Aria Competition

1932 - 1932

Debut with Monte Carlo Opera Company as Elisabeth in *Tannhauser*

1932 - 1932

Performed with the Paris Grand Opera Company as Ortrud in *Lohengrin*

1935 - 1935

Performed with the Metropolitan Opera Company New York as Brunnhilde

1939 - 1939

Completed a concert tour of Australia, performing at Winchelsea, Victoria first

1941 - 1941

Contracted poliomyelitis while in Mexico

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Edited Book

Monash Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Australia, Arnold, John and Morris, Deirdre, 1994

Who's Who in Australia, 1971, Legge, J S, 1971

Book

Women Make Australian History : Women in Wartime 1914-1918, 1939-1945, Dugan, Michael and Gunter, Anne, 1996

Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

Resource Section

Lawrence, Marjorie Florence (1907 - 1979), Griffin, Helga M., 2006,

<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100013b.htm>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Marjorie Lawrence, 1938-1968 \[manuscript\]](#)

National Library of Australia

[Great Australian women of the 20th century \[electronic resource\]](#)

Author Details

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