

OLYMPICS

Written by
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THE NAKED TRUTH

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LUCKY BUCKET
PRODUCTIONS

OLYMPICS: THE NAKED TRUTH

By Angela and Andrew Scullin



Not to be performed without permission

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Roles

Commentator 1 and 2

(If you have two very capable performers they can carry these roles throughout, alternatively share the commentator's role out and change actors for each scene and simply sit them behind the commentator's desk.)

Narrators

Doorman

Woman

Baron de Coubertin

Doctor Brookes

Boxer 1

Boxer 2

Supporter 1, 2 and 3

Emperor

Emperor's aide

Pheidippides

Ladies 1-6

Men 1-6

Chorus singers

OLYMPICS: THE NAKED TRUTH

Two sports commentators sit behind a table.

OPENING MUSIC

Commentator 1: You join us now in Ancient Greece for the athletic festival here in Elis. The year is 776 BC and we are here to honour the Greek god Zeus. We are going over now to our one and only event and that is the short sprint. And they're off. There are a staggering 20 runners in this race and they are fighting for space. Also, I'm not sure what that athlete is wearing but it needs ironing.

Commentator 2: No that's our oldest competitor who is running at the grand old age of 72! And I'm sorry to say he isn't wearing anything.

Commentator 1: What do you mean?

Commentator 2: Those athletes are naked!

Commentator 1: On closer inspection.....Yes. Yes they are.

Commentator 2: I believe it was the poet Hesiod who once wrote 'sow naked, plough naked, harvest naked'.

Commentator 1: That's right Alexandros and these chaps are really taking it to the limit.

Commentator 2: Good job it is a warm day.

Commentator 1: Yes. We wouldn't want any of our athletes catching a chill.

Commentator 2: What could possibly be the reason for running bare?

Commentator 1: Perhaps clothes just slow them down?

Commentator 2: I have to say I would rather lose the race than have to run about in the nude!

The action freezes and the narrator in modern dress steps in.

Narrator: There is evidence to suggest the athletes in Ancient Greece used to run the races without any clothing. It had nothing to do with making them run faster, it is believed that those who chose to run naked did so as a tribute to the Gods as a way of celebrating the human body.

SONG NAKED RUNNING

On your marks

Get Set Go

They're running the race

And they're naked you know

Feeling the breeze

Against their skin

Running the race

And running to win

Naked ambition

Is a Greek tradition

Naked ambition

They're running for their lives

On your marks

Get set Go

They're running the race

And they're naked you know

Feeling the breeze

Against their skin

Running the race

And running to win

Faster

Faster

Against the clock

Those sporty Greeks

Were bound to shock

Naked ambition

Is a Greek tradition

Naked ambition

They're running for their lives.

Commentator 1: Very much a male affair wouldn't you say?

Commentator 2: How do you mean?

Commentator 1: Well, I don't have to look too closely to see that none of those athletes are women.

Commentator 2: That's right Eugenious. Women are not allowed to take part in the Olympic games.

Commentator 1: That's a little unfair don't you think?

Commentator 2: They are the rules I'm afraid. Married women aren't even allowed to watch!

Commentator 1: Goodness me, I wouldn't want to be the one that has to tell the ladies that.

Commentator 2: No, I agree. It wouldn't go down well with women nowadays would it?

A doorman is now waiting downstage right and a woman enters.

Woman: Erm, excuse me. I'm here to watch my husband run the short sprint. Where do I sit?

Doorman: No married women allowed I'm afraid.

Woman: I beg your pardon?

Doorman: That's the rule. Only men, boys and unmarried girls are allowed to watch.

Woman: But that's ridiculous.

Doorman: I don't make the rules madam.

Woman: But I need to see my husband, I have his packed lunch.

Doorman: Sorry sweetheart, your name's not down, you're not coming in.

Woman: My husband will get hungry and he can't run on an empty stomach!

Doorman: Tell someone who cares Madam. I'm afraid I have been given orders and you are not allowed in.

Woman: Then I shall cut my hair and dress as a boy to gain entry to the Olympic festival.

Doorman: Look sweetheart, this isn't Shakespeare now do us all a favour and go home. There's a love. *(He walks away)*

Woman: This is preposterous! I shall kick up a stink! That man will wish he had never met me! Women, gather, come let's make a stand!

Other females flock to join the woman to sing.

SONG NOT JUST FOR THE BOYS

No women

That man said

No women?

Now I'm seeing red

It doesn't seem fair

It doesn't seem right

Women stand up

Women come fight

All girls:

Sport's not just for the boys

Sport's for all to enjoy

We can run, jump and throw

We can put on a show

No sport's not just for the boys

No women

That man said

No women?

Now we're seeing red

It doesn't seem fair

It doesn't seem right

Women stand up

Women come fight

I can take on any man

I can win the race

Men and women work as one

Women you must know your place

Sport's not just for the boys

Sport's for all to enjoy

We can run, jump and throw

We can put on a show

No sport's not just for the boys.

Narrator: There was one very brave lady who disguised herself as a man so she could watch her son compete in the Olympic games but do you know that women could not take part until 1900? But back to Ancient Greece now where the Olympic festival now consists of more than just a running race!

Commentator 1: Things are really moving along now. There are many more events to watch.

Commentator 2: That's right. Shortly we will be going over to the boxing, the long jump, javelin and the discus but first my personal favourite: Pankration!

Commentator 1: What on earth is Pankration?

Commentator 2: Well it is like boxing and wrestling all rolled into one.

Commentator 1: Sounds awful! Let's just remind ourselves of the rules.

Commentator 2: The rules are....there are no rules.

Commentator 1: That's just asking for trouble, don't you think?

Commentator 2: Well, unless you include no biting and no poking eyes out.

Commentator 1: Yes that's more like it. So how do we know when we have a winner?

Commentator 2: When one of the competitors passes out or dies, they are the loser! Or they can just surrender.

(Note: Pankration can be pronounced 'pan-krat-ee-on' or 'pan-kray-shun'. For the sake of the rhyme scheme in the song we will be using the latter.)

Commentator 1: What a lovely event.

Commentator 2: Delightful! Do you know they are introducing a youth section so that boys between the ages of 12 and 17 can take part in Pankration?

Commentator 1: That really will be interesting.

Commentator 2: How do the athletes train for this sport?

Commentator 1: Well, Milo is a wrestler and he prepared by carrying a calf every day and as the calf grew bigger, he grew stronger.

Commentator 2: What happens if the wrestlers don't stick to the rules of the game?

Commentator 1: The referee will beat them with sticks.

Commentator 2: And we go over to the Pankration event. If you are eating your lunch, you might want to look away now!

Narrator: All in wrestling was an Olympic sport and the only rules were no biting and no poking eyes. There was no weight division and no time limit. Can you imagine being paired off with someone twice your size for a violent wrestle and the game only ends when one of you passes out or dies? Not my idea of fun and not all athletes stuck to the rules.

SONG PANKRATION

Oh Pankration

Oh Pankration

Fight begins with hesitation

Man to man

Face the pain

Who will win

This dreadful game?

Arm lock

Choking