

EMMA LOUISE PURSEY

Curriculum Vitae

'Firebrand' The Age ★★★★★ | 'Formidable' RealTime | 'Exceptional' The Australian | 'Triumphant talent' Theatre Matters ★★★★★
 'Ecstatic' Stage Whispers | 'Stand Out' Melbourne Observer | 'Fervent' The Blurb | 'Tour de force' Grey Smith Journal

2026 Green Room Award Nominee: Outstanding Performance, Independent Theatre



Gender	Female
Age Range	35-50
Ethnicity	Caucasian
Height	173 cm / 5'9
Base Location	Melbourne
Skills	Actor, Physical Theatre, Writer, Producer, Educator
Hair	Silver
Eyes	Blue
Pronouns	She/Her/Hers
Accessibility	Invisible Disability
Memberships	M.E.A.A., APATA
Agency	Freelance Artist
Phone	+61 (0)438 769 673
Email	emmalouisepursey@gmail.com
Instagram	@emmalouisepursey
Web	www.emmalouisepursey.com www.integratedactortraining.com
Showcast	Showcast Profile
Casting Networks	Casting Networks Profile
iMDb	imDb Profile

EDUCATION & TRAINING

YEAR	TRAINING	INSTITUTION / PRACTITIONER
2023	Ian Rickson & Ian Sinclair: The Actor's Director: Directing Masterclass	16 th Street Actors Studio
2020	Ian Rickson – Caryl Churchill Retrospective Masterclass (Joyce – Top Girls)	
2020	Iain Sinclair – Shakespeare: The Acting Teacher Masterclass (Auditor)	
2020	Iain Sinclair – Arthur Miller Masterclass (Auditor)	
2019	Ian Rickson – Royal Court Retrospective Masterclass (Harper – Far Away)	
2019	Iain Sinclair – MatchFit Pro Scene Study (The Woman, The River)	
2019	Larry Moss Masterclass (Auditor)	
2020	Lisa Robertson Masterclass (Auditor)	Equity M.E.A.A.
2019	Howard Fine Masterclass (Auditor)	Howard Fine Acting Studios Australia
2019	Sarah Hallum Scene Study (May, Fool For Love)	
2018	Marilyn McIntyre – Fine & Hagen Techniques	
2017	Howard Fine Masterclass (Auditor)	
2013-2014	Improvisation	Rama Nicholas
2010-2012	Peter Kalos – Strasberg Technique	Melbourne Actors Lab
	<i>Casting Director Workshops:</i>	
2009-2012	Peter Rasmussen; Roger Hodgman; Jonathan Geraghty; Bill Hughes; Paul Weber; Alison Telford; Tom McSweeney; Ben Parkinson & Sue Manger	Melbourne Actor Academy
2009	Camera Technique Masterclass	Tom McSweeney
2009	Equity Casting Hothouse	Equity M.E.A.A.
2006	Acting for Film and Television – Cert III	The Actors Workshop
2001	Suzuki Method of Actor Training Masterclass, London	Ichiro Nakayama (Suzuki Company of Toga)
1999	Suzuki Method of Actor Training – 2 nd Theatre Olympics – Shizuoka, Japan	Ellen Lauren (SITI Company & SCOT)
1997-2007	Suzuki Method of Actor Training & Repertory Theatre Ensemble	Frank Theatre – Jacqui Carroll & John Nobbs
1983-1992	RAD Ballet Syllabus	Australia & UK

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INDUSTRY EDUCATOR | PRACTITIONER

YEAR	INSTITUTION	ROLE
2019-2026	16 th Street Actors Studio	Core Faculty (Suzuki Method of Actor Training)
2022-2024	The National Theatre	Faculty (Suzuki Method of Actor Training)
2023	National Institute of Circus Arts – Suzuki Masterclass	Industry Guest
2021	Nadia Tass VCA 2 nd Year Directing Masterclass	Actor, Writer
2020	Nadia Tass VCA Directing Masterclass: Masters in Film	Actor
2019	Howard Fine Acting Studio	Industry Guest
2018	Film & Television Studio International	Industry Guest
2016-2019	Independent Suzuki Method of Actor Training Workshops & Courses	Freelance Teaching
2016	Suzuki Method of Actor Training Masterclass with Okubo Noriaki (SCOT)	Freelance Teaching

INDEPENDENT REPERTORY THEATRE ENSEMBLES

YEAR	COMPANY	ROLE
2002-2012	THE BRIDES OF FRANK (New Work)	Co-Founder / Co-Director
1997-2007	FRANK THEATRE (OzFrank)	Core Ensemble Member, Principle Actor

MAJOR GRANTS

YEAR	ORGANISATION & GRANT	PRODUCTION	COMPANY
2025	CITY OF MELBOURNE	WHERE IS JOY?	Emma Louise Pursey
2025	ROBERT SALZER FOUNDATION	WHERE IS JOY?	Emma Louise Pursey
2024	AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL FUND – CREATIVE AUSTRALIA BOOST	WHERE IS JOY?	Emma Louise Pursey
2007	ARTS QUEENSLAND – NEW WORK	Til' Death Do Us Part	The Brides of Frank
2005	ARTS QUEENSLAND – CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	WHERE IS JOY?	Emma Louise Pursey
2005	BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL SPARKS PROGRAM – CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	Til' Death Do Us Part	The Brides of Frank
2004	ARTS QUEENSLAND – CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	WHERE IS JOY?	Emma Louise Pursey

THEATRE

YEAR	PRODUCTION	ROLE	COMPANY	DIRECTOR
	WHERE IS JOY?	Joy Hester	Emma Louise Pursey	
2025	Inaugural Season		Fortyfivedownstairs	Susie Dee
2023-2024	Creative Development – Performed Reading		Heide MoMA	
2005	Creative Development – Script		Metro Arts	
2004	Creative Development – Script & Performance		Metro Arts	Margie Brown Ash
	FOOL FOR LOVE			
2019-2022	Creative Development	May	Emma Louise Pursey	Sean Mee
2019	RIOT	Janette	The MC Showroom	Thomas Ian Doyle
2017	JESUS! LIVE! HERE! TONIGHT!	Spinning Time Lord	Testing Grounds	Kat Henry
	MADAME TULALAH'S MAGNIFICENT BOX			
2017	Brisbane Festival	Madame Tulalah's Assistant	Melinda Hetzel & Co.	Richard Chambers
2017	Mt Isa Fringe Festival			& Melinda Hetzel
2017	TERMINUS	Character A	North of Eight	Shane Savage
2017	THE PROCESS	Hope Springsey	Natasha Brown Productions	John Gauci
2016	THE TEMPEST	Prospero	Melbourne Shakespeare Co.	Jennifer Sarah Dean
2016	THE MAN OF MODE	Belinda	Chapel Off Chapel	Dirk Hoult
2012	THE FOUR ACCORDIANISTS OF THE APOCALYPSE	Candida Nervosa	Sophia Chapman	Jo Loth
2010	GRIMM TALES	Multiple Roles	Queensland Theatre Co.	Michael Fletcher
2009	OODGEROO	Multiple Roles	La Boite Theatre Co.	Sean Mee
2009	THE PILLOWMAN	The Mothers	23 rd Productions	Michelle Miall
2009	THE GREATER PLAGUE	The Nurse/The Protagonist	Brisbane Powerhouse	Nic Dorward
2008	ATTACK OF THE ATTACKING ATTACKERS	Tiffany/Eva	La Boite Theatre Co.	Nic Dorward
2007	THE LARAMIE PROJECT	Multiple Roles	Brisbane Powerhouse	Lucas Stibbard
2006	HAMLET STOOGED	Gertrude	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
	Hoxton Hall, London Festival			
	TIL' DEATH DO US PART	Multiple Roles	The Brides of Frank	Ben Knapton
2009	Brisbane Festival featuring Sandro Colarelli			
2008	Adelaide Fringe Festival			
2005/2007	Brisbane Powerhouse			
2006	CORPORATE	Doris	Metro Arts	Louise Marshall
	THE WAISTED GIRLIE SHOW WITH MARTIN MARTINI & THE BONE PALACE ORCHESTRA			
2006	Woodford Folk Festival	Kosha Stavewood	Strut'n'Fret Production House	Scott Maidment

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THEATRE (Continued)

YEAR	PRODUCTION	ROLE	COMPANY	DIRECTOR
2005	MACBETH	Lady Macbeth	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
2004	Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)			
2004	International Adana Theater Festival, Turkey			
2004	Brisbane Powerhouse			
2003	MKFM International Youth Theatre Festival, Croatia			
2003	European Regions Festival, Czech Republic			
	FUGUSAN			
	Lisa O'Neill Solo Contemporary Dance Work	Live Vinyl DJ Soundscape		Lisa O'Neill
2005	The Click Festival		The Institute of Modern Art	
2002	Asia Contemporary Dance Festival, Japan		Osaka Dance Box	
2002	New Territories Festival, Scotland		Glasgow Tramways	
2002	Bodyworks Festival, Melbourne		Dancehouse	
2001	Scope Festival, Sydney		The Performance Space	
2000	L'attitude 27.5 Festival		Brisbane Powerhouse	
	MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S ROMEOS	Juliet	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
2003	Brisbane Powerhouse			
2002	Toga International Spring Arts Festival, Japan			
	THE LOVE THAT WE KNEW			
2003	Lisa O'Neill Solo Contemporary Dance Work	DJ Soundscape Composer	The Institute of Modern Art	Lisa O'Neill
	The Click Festival, Brisbane			
2004	OEDIPUS REX	Jocasta	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
	Brisbane Powerhouse			
	DOLL SEVENTEEN	Multiple Roles	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
2004	Karnak Playhouse			
2003	Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)			
2002	Brisbane Festival			
	RASHOMON	The Medium	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
2004	Brisbane Festival			
2001	Brisbane Powerhouse			
2002	MYRRAH	The Queen	Brisbane Powerhouse	Diane Cilento
2001-2005	FRANK EXPO	Multiple Roles	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
	Frank Theatre Retrospective, Brisbane Powerhouse			
	GHOSTING			
2007/2001	Jeremy Hynes & Lisa O'Neill	DJ Soundscape Composer	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Art	Jeremy Hynes & Lisa O'Neill
	Performance Installation Work			
	HEAVY METAL HAMLET	Chorus / Gravedigger	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
2000	Shizuoka International Arts Festival, Japan			
1999	Melbourne Fringe Festival			
1998	Olympic Sea Change Festival, Sydney Seymour Centre			
	TOKYO VOGUE	Chorus	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
1999	Brisbane City Gallery			
	SALOME	Chorus	Frank Theatre	Jacqui Carroll
1999	Karnak Playhouse			

DIRECTING

YEAR	PRODUCTION	SECTOR	COMPANY	ROLE
2024	NICA GRADUATING SHOWCASE – Select Artists	Circus	NICA	Industry Consultant
2023	NICA GRADUATING SHOWCASE – Select Artists	Circus	NICA	Industry Consultant
2017	EVOCATIONS OF BUTOH	AsiaToPA	Helen Smith, La Mama	Designer, Director

SHORT FILM

YEAR	PRODUCTION	ROLE	COMPANY	DIRECTOR
2020	THE DREAM OF THE SONGSTRESS	Voice of The Songstress	PTN Productions	Peter T Nathan
2019	GREVILLEA	Warden / 3 rd AD		Jordan Giusti
2019	THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU	Casting / Producer	Shoot Films	Damian McLindon
2018	VENTURE	Beth	Valiant Film Company	Michael Irwin
2016	THE SOUND OF LOVE	Sally	VCA	Alex Richter
2012	HIDE & SEEK	Naomi	VCA	Cecilia Rossiter
2012	CONFESSIONS OF A DRUNKARD	Glamour Puss	48 Hour Film Project	Monte Macpherson
2006	BUTTERFLIES IN GLASS	Beautiful Girl		Denis Hamilton

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TELEVISION

YEAR	PRODUCTION	ROLE	COMPANY	DIRECTOR
2018	PROJECT S.E.E.D: Prelude	Claire McAllister	Tee Pee Studios	Thomas Sutcliffe
2016	NEIGHBOURS	Clara Winter	Channel 11	Tony Osicka
2012	UNDERBELLY	Matron Sheringham	Channel 9	Karl Zwicky
2012	WINNERS & LOSERS	Nina Maroun	Channel 7	Jean-Pierre Mignon

COMMERCIAL

YEAR	PRODUCTION	ROLE	COMPANY	DIRECTOR
2019	#THISISNOTWORKING	Hero	Care Australia	GMB Films
2018	TOYOTATHON	Mum	Toyota	Eden Diebel
2015	ISELECT	Surly Receptionist	iSelect	DOGBOY
2013	BOSISTOS ROOM SPRAY	Amorous Wife	Bosistos	Robby Douglas
2009	KLEENEX TISSUES	Hero	Kleenex	Turner Matt Turner

AWARDS

YEAR	AWARD	ROLE	PRODUCTION
2026	GREEN ROOM AWARD NOMINEE Outstanding Performance, Independent Theatre	Joy Hester	WHERE IS JOY?
2019	PENNINSULA FILM FESTIVAL BEST FILM	Producer	The Last Time I Saw You
2018	PORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL OPEN FILM WINNER TROPFEST THIRD PLACE	Producer	The Last Time I Saw You
2018	+ Best Editing; Best Screenplay; Best Sound Design; Best Production Design	Producer	The Last Time I Saw You
2010	DELL'ARTE AWARD – BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS	Multiple Roles	Oodgeroo, La Boite Theatre Co.
1999	DELL'ARTE AWARD – BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS	The Medium	Rashomon, Frank Theatre

NOTES

- ⇒ Think Tilda Swinton + Vicky Krieps + Annette Benning + a young Maggie Smith
- ⇒ Critically-acclaimed, award-winning, Green Room Award-nominated actor, writer, producer and educator with 30 years' professional experience across theatre, screen and interdisciplinary performance.
- ⇒ Core Faculty at 16th Street Actors Studio; Industry Guest at The National Theatre, Howard Fine, NICA, Film & Television Studio International and VCA

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Creator, writer, producer and performer of the critically acclaimed, nationally profiled solo work WHERE IS JOY?, which sold out prior to opening at fortyfivedownstairs in 2025.
- ◆ [Showcase Victoria](#) 2026 featured artist 2026 for WHERE IS JOY? – Victoria's leading performing arts market.
- ◆ Selected artist for APAX 2026 First Base Program for WHERE IS JOY? - Australia's premier performing arts market.

ACCESSIBILITY & EQUITY

As an artist living with invisible disability, I actively engage in the ongoing practice of disability pride, embracing this identity after a lifetime of navigating ableist systems. I am happy to have a conversation with you about my accessibility needs. I have also been a proud Equity member since 2008.