

## EMMA LOUISE PURSEY – BIO

Emma Louise Pursey is an accredited Suzuki Method teacher and critically acclaimed stage and screen actor who has performed nationally and internationally since 1997.

The first decade of her career was with Frank Theatre, a repertory ensemble who trained exclusively in the Suzuki Method of Actor Training in Australia and Japan. Emma Louise Pursey toured regularly to numerous Japanese and European theatre festivals playing principal roles such as Lady Macbeth, Juliet, Gertrude and Jocasta; some of which were in bi-lingual productions. Festivals include the 1999 2nd International Theatre Olympics (Shizuoka, Japan), 2000 Shizuoka Spring Arts Festival (Japan), 2002 6th International Youth Theatre Festival (Pula, Croatia), 2003 Toga Spring Arts Festival (Japan), 2003 European Regions Festival (Hradec Králové, Czech Republic), Hluboká Castle (Czech Republic), 2004 Adana International Arts Festival (Turkey), 2006 Aberystwyth University Theatre Festival (Wales), 2006 London Festival (UK).

During this time, Emma Louise Pursey was also directed by the legendary Diane Cilento in her production of Myrrah, performed alongside David Helfgott, and became co-director of her own ensemble theatre company, The Brides of Frank; one of Queensland's most significant (and infamous) independent companies of the mid 2000s. In 2007 Emma's final performance with Frank Theatre saw her perform her Dell'Artè award-winning role of the Medium in Rashomon for Tadashi Suzuki (founder of the Suzuki Method) second ever visit to Australia. Emma moved into independent and mainstage work for Queensland Theatre Company, Brisbane Powerhouse, QPAC, Metro Arts Theatre and La Boite Theatre where she won her second Dell'Artè award for her multiple roles in Oodgeroo.

Relocating to Melbourne, Emma expanded her screen work to include roles on Neighbours, Winners and Losers, Underbelly Squizzy and numerous award-winning short films. Melbourne independent theatre highlights include playing the role of Character A in North of Eight's Terminus, being directed by John Gauci in The Process, Prospero in Melbourne Shakespeare Company's The Tempest, and Belinda in The Man Of Mode at Chapel Off Chapel.

Early in her career Emma was also a vinyl electronic music DJ who played in Beijing for the Millennium, and toured nationally and internationally performing a live-mixed soundscape to contemporary dancer, Lisa O'Neill's solo work, Fugu San at Dancehouse (Melbourne), The Performance Space (Sydney), New Territories Festival (Glasgow) and the Asia Contemporary Dance Festival (Osaka). Emma has also produced/assistant-directed photographer, Peter Milne's The Oddfellow's Daughter for MICF at ACMI, short-films The Last Time I Saw You and Grevillea, and Butoh artist, Helen Smith's performance of Lady Macbeth at the Asia Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts.

Emma produced and cast the short film THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU that won Third Prize at Tropfest 2018; Best Film at Port Shorts Film Festival 2018; Director's Top Ten Pick's at Encounter's Short Film Festival (Bristol, England) 2018; and Best Short Film at Peninsula Film Festival 2019.

She currently teaches Suzuki-based Integrated Actor Training as core faculty at 16<sup>th</sup> Street Actors Studio and The National Theatre.