

TALIA PUA

Location: Auckland | **Height:** 150 cm
Hair Colour: Black | **Eye Colour:** Brown | **Ethnicity:** Chinese

Talia Pua is an actor, theatre-maker, and interaction designer who recently portrayed Meiling in the feature film Tinā, directed by Miki Magasiva. The film has hit NZ box office expectations, and recently opened the Hawai'i Internetaional Film Festival.

As co-founder and Creative Director of Hand-Pulled Collective, Talia leads the creation of original, independent theatre in Aotearoa. In 2021, she made her award-winning debut as a playwright and director with Pork and Poll Taxes, a poignant Chinese family drama set during New Zealand’s poll tax era.

With a degree in Creative Technologies, Talia merges physical theatre with design to create visually compelling and emotionally layered work. Her innovative methods are evident in projects such as Not Woman Enough, where she transformed second-hand textiles into biomorphic sculptures, using set and prop design to examine themes of womanhood.

Talia's screen presence extends beyond Tinā. She appeared in Into the Rainbow (2017) and the web series Asian 8 (2023), delivering grounded and memorable performances. Her international experience includes a residency with Indonesia's Papermoon Puppet Theatre, where she honed her puppet-making and visual storytelling skills.

Through both theatre and film, Talia continues to craft bold, visually arresting stories that resonate with diverse audiences.

AWARDS

2025	Springboard Award for Theatre	Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi	
2016	Award: Direct Entry Award [workshop]	The National Shakespeare Schools Production	Dunedin September/October 2016

2016	Dux Award	Award: For the Highest Academic Achievement	Diocesan School for Girls

FEATURE FILM

2025	Tinā	Role: Mei-ling	The Brown Factory - Director: Miki Magasiva Madman Entertainment - Producer: Dan Higgins
2017	Into the Rainbow	Role: Sea Store Customer	Beijing Tianrun Media - Director: Norman Stone Producers: Richard Fletcher & Iain Brown

TELEVISION & STREAMING

2023	Asian 8	Role: Fen	Asian 8 Phoenix Limited - Director: Nahyeon Lee Pan Asian Screen Collective
2023	Happiness is the Path [pilot]	Role: Sandy	Happiness is the Path Limited - Director: Chye-Ling Huang Pan Asian Screen Collective - Executive Producers: Shuchi Kothari & Bronwynn Baker

SHORT FILM

2025	Once Upon a Time There Was You	Role: Talia [lead]	Angle3 Productions - Directors: Leah McVeagh & Daryl J Wong Auckland Finalist & National Grand Finalist, 48Hours - Producer: Leah McVeagh
2023	Yesterday	Role: Anna [lead]	Director: Zheng Wei Lu
2022	It Lies at Night	Role: Philly [supporting]	Ruah Films - Diretor: Tema Pua Producer: Leah McVeagh
2022	Parked	Role: May [supporting]	Angle3 Pictures - Director: Léah McVeagh

THEATRE

2026	Pork and Polls Taxes	Role: Yuk Chun	Proudly Asian Theatre - Director: Chye-Ling Huang Hand Pulled Collective & Auckland Live
2026	The Girl Whose Twin was a Bird	Role: Petra [lead] / Puppeteer	Pesta Boneka #10, Yogyakarta - Director: Chye-Ling Huang Hand Pulled Collective
2026	The Girl Whose Twin was a Bird	Role: Petra [lead] / Puppeteer	We The Young Festival - Director: Miriama McDowell Hand Pulled Collective
2025	Taniwha	Role: Puppeteer	Silo Theatre Company - Director: Sophie Roberts
2025	The Girl Whose Twin was a Bird	Role: Petra [lead] / Puppeteer	Hand Pulled Collective - Director: Miriama McDowell Auckland Live - Dramaturge: Rachel Callinan
2024	The Valentina	Role: Ellen [lead]	The Rebel Alliance - Director: Anders Falstie-Jensen
2023	Heart Go... Boom	Role: Ensemble	Massive Theatre Company - Directors: Ebony Andrews & Jes'mine Palaaia
2022	The Whale Rider	Role: Nani Flowers	Tim Bray Theatre Company - Director: Tim Bray
2020	The Miracle Worker	Role: Helen Keller [understudy]	Auckland Theatre Company - Director: Margaret-Mary Hollins
2019	Vagina Monologues	Role: 6 Year Old Girl & Ensemble	V-Day Auckland, TAPAC - Director: Amber Liberte
2018	A Space Oddity	Role: Astronaut	Short & Sweet Festival - Director: Mary Granfors
2017	Romeo & Juliet	Tutor: Timothy Walker	Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand
2016	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Role: Puck	Sheila Winn Shakespeare Festival
2016	Les Miserables	Role: Baptistine & Mademoiselle Gillenormand	TAPAC Youth Theatreworks - Director: Julian Harrison

LIVE PERFORMANCE

2019	Babel	Role: Movement Artists & Ensemble	The Basement Theatre - Director: Amber Liberte
2018	Iron Eyes	Role: Ensemble Member	Jang Huddle - Director: Cindy Jang

TRAINING

2024 - 2022	Massive Nui Ensemble & Foundations	Tutors: Various	Massive Theatre Company - Artistic Director: Sam Scott

2024 - 2022	The Actors' Studio	Tutor: Elena Stejko	
2022	Restart Program	Tutor: Various	Auckland Theatre Company
2020	Fresh Crop	Tutor: Jennifer Ward-Lealand, Chye Ling Huang,	Sam Snedden, Jim McLarty, Cherie Moore, - Miriama McDowell, Sarah Wiseman, Proudly Asian Theatre/Pan Asian Screen Collective

TV COMMERCIAL

2025	AIPC Australia	Role: Client [hero]	Eyes and Ears - Director: Calvin Sang Producer: Holly Pollock

SKILLS

Accents	American - Standard, English - RP
Dance	Dancing
Instruments	Handbells, Piano » Intermediate
Languages	Pinyin
Other	Art, Painting, Public Speaker, Self-Testing - Excellent
Singing	Alto, Choir
Sports	Badminton, Orienteering