



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 International 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 | The Arts Foundation Te Tumu
Toi



COLLABORATE
MANAGEMENT

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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/ TELEVISION ON DEMAND

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

2023	Yesterday	Role: Anna [lead]	Director: Zheng Wei Lu
2022	It Lies at Night	Role: Philly [supporting]	Ruah Films - Director: Tema Pua Producer: Leah McVeagh
2022	Parked	Role: May [supporting]	Angle3 Pictures - Director: Léah McVeagh
2018	Majesty	Role: Daughter [supporting role]	Elam School of Fine Arts - Director: Pon Torthinchai
2018	The Myth of the Model Minority	Role: Talia [supporting role]	WAYFR Productions - Director: Nahyeon Lee

THEATRE

2025	The Girl Whose Twin was a Bird	Petra [lead]	Dramaturge: Rachel Callinan
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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
2019	Babel	Role: Movement Artists & Ensemble	The Basement Theatre - Director: Amber Liberte
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
2018	Iron Eyes	Role: Ensemble Member	Jang Huddle - Director: Cindy Jang
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
2015	Romeo & Juliet	Role: The Nurse	Diocesan Shakespeare Festival - Director: Bess Reynolds, Merrin Fagan
2015	Tom Sawyer	Role: Narrator [Cindy]	TAPAC Youth Theatre - Director: Margaret Mary Hudson
2014	The Mikado	Role: Mini Mikado	Dilworth School Production - Director: Jason Te Mete
2012	Thoroughly Modern Millie Junior	Role: Ching Ho	Diocesan School for Girls - Director: Nancy Schroder
2011	Dracula Spectacular	Role: Transylvanian Airways Pilot	Diocesan School for Girls - Director: Linda Kitchen
2009	Cinderella Jones	Role: The Fairy Godmother [Pattie O'Dawes]	Diocesan School for Girls - Director: Bess Reynolds
2008	Dragonfire	Role: Turtule [chorus]	Diocesan School for Girls - Director: Bess Reynolds
2004	Mandy's Garden	Role: Flower [chorus]	Diocesan School for Girls - Director: Bess Reynolds

TV COMMERCIAL

2022 - 2024	Mercury : Save Your Energy	Role: Yellow Wonder	The Sweet Shop
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TRAINING

2024	Character Creation	Tutor: Elena Stejko
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2024	Massive Nui Ensemble	Massive Theatre Company	
2023	Massive Nui Ensemble	Tutors: Various	Massive Theatre Company
2022	Audition Preparation	Tutor: Elena Stejko	Actor's Studio
2022	Character Creation	Tutor: Elena Stejko	
2022	Massive Foundations Workshop	Tutors: Various	Massive Company
2022	Restart Workshop	Tutor: Various	Auckland Theatre Company - The Actors Program
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
2018	Drama & Storytelling Workshop	Tutor: Alice Canton	Auckland Women's Centre
2016	Introductory Course to On-Screen Acting	Tutor: John A Givins	South Seas Film & TV School
2015	Theatre Studies	Role: Student	Otago University Workshop - Tutor: Hilary Halba

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

