

EMA BARTON

Location: Auckland | **Height:** 170 cm
Hair Colour: Brown | **Ethnicity:** European | **Eye Colour:** Green | **Ethnicity:** Mixed Ethnicity | **Ethnicity:** Pacific Islander | **Ethnicity:** Samoan

Ema Barton aka EMA I'U (pronounced Emma ee 'u) is a full-time creative of Sāmoan/Pākehā heritage based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Alongside her acting work, she weaves together song, poetry, community events, and screen production. Renowned for her soulful and versatile voice, Ema captivates audiences through storytelling and a commanding stage presence, grounded in a background that bridges theatre and environmental activism. Known as "The Queen of Open Mic," she has run and hosted events for over a decade while performing with her bands Lucky May and Coco-Rocky. Ema is also the founder of community arts trust Holding Space Aotearoa, and initiated the Songwriters4ClimateAction project. She is now releasing original music, with her debut album and a suite of video projects currently in development.

AWARDS

2014	Diploma in Contemporary Music Performance	Award: Rounhead Studios Song Writing Award	MAINZ
2014	Diploma in Contemporary Music Performance	Award: Atwaters Award for Outstanding Achievement	MAINZ
2013	Certificate in Contemporary Music Performance	Award: Song Writing Award	MAINZ
2013	Certificate in Contemporary Music Performance	Award: Outstanding Performer Award	MAINZ
2001	Manawatu Jazz Competition	Award: Erna Ferry Award for Best Vocalist	

2001	Pukekohe High School	Award: The Peacock Award for Best Solo	

TELEVISION & STREAMING

2021	Shortland Street	Role: Mandy Edmonds (Guest)	South Pacific Pictures - Director: Curtis Vowell
2015	Game Over [web series]	Role: Relationship Coach	Director: Patricia Phelan

SHORT FILM

2020	Dancing On My Own	Role: Susan	Director: Keria Paterson
2014	Deity	Role: Reality TV Star	Director: Jose de Hoyos
2013	Eggspiry Day	Role: Eva	48 Hour Film Festival - Director: Chris Tempest
2007	Thank God I'm an Atheist	Role: Jill	Unitec Institute of Technology - Director: John Callen

THEATRE

2014	SIN	Role: Izzy Tamaseu	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Sarah Graham and Andrew Ford
2014	The Sex Show [2]	Role: Minerva	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Joel Herbert
2013	F*ck Love	Role: Trudy	Midnight Hallways - Director: Sarah Graham
2012	Alice	Role: The Queen of Hearts	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Joel Herbert
2011	Boys' Life	Role: Carla	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Sam Shore
2011	King Arthur	Role: Guinevere	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Sarah Graham and Joel Herbert
2011	Love After Dark	Role: Emma 'the Director'	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Chris Tempest
2011	The Sex Show	Role: Minerva	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Sarah Graham and Joel Herbert
2010	Little White Men	Role: Brittney	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Joel Herbert
2010	The Suburban Murder	Role: Athena Douglas	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Alison Quigan and Jeff Szuzterman

2010 - 2009	Treasure Island [1 and 2]	Role: Israel Hands/Blind Pew	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Alison Quigan
2009	Little White Men	Role: Vese	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Joel Herbert
2009	The Loyal Customer	Role: Emma	Oryza Foundation - Director: Ying Li and Tony Forster
2008	HAIP Youth Violence Roadshow	Role: Shikaia	HAIP - Director: Ema Barton
2008	Slapstix Commedia Show	Role: Slapstick Troupe	Director: Ema Barton
2008	The K Rd Show	Role: Vese	The Outfit Theatre Company - Director: Sarah Graham and Joel Herbert
2007	La Confusione de Amore	Role: Isabella	Unitec Institute of Technology - Director: Lisa Brickell
2007	Scenes from the Big Picture	Role: Connie	Unitec Institute of Technology - Director: Michele Hine
2007	The Life and Death of King John	Role: Queen Elinor	Unitec Institute of Technology - Director: Jacque Drew
2006	Corum Boy	Role: Chorus	Unitec Institute of Technology - Director: Jonathon Hendry
2006	The Black Flower of Jeremiah	Role: The Siren/Demon Woman	Unitec Institute of Technology - Director: Beth Kayes and Pedro Ilgenfritz

LIVE PERFORMANCE

2022 - 2021	CocoRocky	Role: Lead Singer	Band
2022 - 2016	Lucky May	Role: Lead Singer, Guitarist	Band
2022 - 2002	Solo Singer, Songwriter	Lead Singer, Guitarist	
2022	The Rocking Roller Coasters	Role: Lead Singer	Band
2019 - 2018	Lucky May	Role: Guest Singer, Entertainer	P&O Cruises

TRAINING

2021	US Accents Workshop	Tutor: Jacque Drew	
2015 - 2014	Diploma of Contemporary Music Performance	Tutors: Various	MAINZ
2009	Audition Technique Workshop	Tutor: Andrea Kelland	
2008	Commedia dell'Arte Workshop	Tutor: Giovanni Fusetti	
2004	Certificate in Arts for Theatre and Film Studies	Tutors: Various	The University of Auckland

2005	Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts	Tutors: Various	Unitec Institute of Technology

TV COMMERCIAL

2022	Coffee Relaunch - Z Coffee	Role: Sports Mum	Saatchi & Saatchi
2021	Instant Kiwi	Role: Fisher Person	Eight Productions
2021	New Zealand Blood Service	Role: Mother	YoungShand

SKILLS

Accents	American, English - RP
Dance	Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Latin
Instruments	Bass, Guitar, Keyboard, Percussion, Ukelele, Drums » Basic, Keyboard » Basic
Languages	Samoan
Other	Clowning, Improv, Musical Comedy, Presenting, Public Speaker, Song Writing, Stage Fighting
Singing	Alto, Blues, Country, Folk, Jazz, Musical Theatre, Opera, Pop, Rock, Soprano, Soul
Sports	Combat Fighting, Cycling, Horse Riding, Ju Jitsu, Running, Stunt Work, Swimming, Yoga, Diving » PADI Certified Advanced Diver