



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
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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

2025	AIPC [au]	Role: Client [hero]	Eyes and Ears Producer: Holly Pollock
2022 - 2024	Mercury : Save Your Energy	Role: Yellow Wonder	The Sweet Shop

TRAINING



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MANAGEMENT

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2024	Character Creation	Tutor: Elena Stejko	
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

