

# 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

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| **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 |

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

## FEATURE FILM

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

## TELEVISION & STREAMING

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

## SHORT FILM

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| **2025** | Once Upon a Time There Was You | Role: Talia [lead] | Angle3 Productions - Directors: Leah McVeagh & Daryl J Wong<br>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<br>Producer: Leah McVeagh |
| **2022** | Parked | Role: May [supporting] | Angle3 Pictures - Director: Léah McVeagh |

## THEATRE

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| **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

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

## TRAINING

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

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| **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

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

## SKILLS

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| **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 |