

# Akina Edmonds Bio

Born and raised in New Zealand, Akina graduated from the National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Arts (NASDA) in Christchurch in 2008 with a Bachelor of Performing Arts via Music Theatre.

In her graduating year, Akina was cast in the Australian tour of *Buddy Holly the Musical*.

For the following ten years Akina continued her work in the Australian Music Theatre industry and went on to join the casts of major musical productions including *Avenue Q*, *Hairspray*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, a co-op of *Children of Eden*, two and a half year Australian tour with Disney's *The Lion King*, Australasian premiere of *Sister Act the Musical*, where not only did she get to play the starring role of Deloris van Cartier but more honourably - her first project on home soil. She just had the pleasure to work for Michael Cassels production of *Beautiful; The Carole King Musical*, where she played a Shirelle and Janelle Woods. Akina is now immersing herself into more of what she loves doing, and honing her craft in screen acting.