

Mandela was born in south Sudan and spent the majority of his childhood years in the north of the country and in Egypt, due to the civil war in Sudan. He arrived in Australia in 2008.

Having shown skills in various hobbies such as dancing, singing, playing musical instruments and rap, Mandela also has an interest in contemporary musical and cabaret-style performance. He speaks three languages, with his native language called Acholi, Arabic and English.

In 2010, Mandela found out about an organisation called football united, running football activities for young people from diverse backgrounds. Mandela became a participant and shortly after received training to become a coach for young people. He has since trained people in football part-time while acting full time.

Throughout his upbringing, Mandela has involved himself in local theatre, in productions such as Hotel Hibiscus, Welcome to the Moon and a devised work at PACT Centre for Emerging Artists, The Harvest.

Mandela has shown interest in not only performing on stage, but also playwriting. He has worked on his own one man show and co-wrote a short film with emerging successful filmmakers out in the industry which he has starred in some of these films such as I Am Emmanuel and Kill off. Mandela has starred in All These Creatures short film that won a prestigious awards the “Palme d'or “ at Cannes Film Festival and the 2018 AACTA Award. With the film All These Creatures’s success, Mandela have been nominated for best leading role of Mel in the Reelgood Film Festival early in 2019.

Mandela successfully auditioned for NIDA in 2015 and he has been pursuing his acting career passionately ever since. During his time in NIDA Mandela appeared in Realism, Eurydike + Orpheus, the season at sarsaparilla and a midsummer night’s

dream. Graduating from NIDA, Mandela has made his professional debut with Belvoir Theatre Company in Sami in paradise, outhouse Theatre Company at Seymour centre theatre in Rolling stone in which he was nominated for the best supporting role in the Sydney theatre award in 2018 and a national tour with the La Boite Theatre Company in Prize Fighter. Mandela has appeared in Sport for Jove theatre company production of Othello early last year, playing the role of Othello and Sport for Jove's Summer Season in productions of Romeo and Juliet and Twelfth Night. And with Sydney Foreign Actors Association theatre company Mandela has star in their production of HAMLET this year playing the role of HAMLET.