

# ANNA YEN

**Actor, Theatre-Maker, Director, Writer, Movement and Circus Teacher, Feldenkrais Method® Practitioner**

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## Actor

- 2024 **Planted** Episode 1 Communications. Written by Marni Little & Lisa Hughes  
**Chinese Garden** Creative Development by Sara Isherwood.  
**Grandma Clown** Lunar New Year BrisAsia Festival. Chinatown Mall, Valley, Brisbane.
- 2023 **The Poison of Polygamy** by Anchuli Felicia King. La Boite Theatre & Sydney Theatre Company  
**Dear Mind** Queensland Health. Ad.  
**Grandma Clown** Lunar New Year BCC Valley.  
**The Portable Door** The Jim Henson Company / Story Bridge Films / a STAN Original. Tea Lady Goblin.
- 2022 **Death in a Statesman** by Robert Kronk. debase productions.  
**Grandma Clown** Lunar New Year BCC Valley.
- 2021 **Grandma Clown** Lunar New Year BCC Valley.
- 2020 **DomestiCITY** Vulcana Circus, Brisbane Festival / WOW Festival – Slackrope, Clown,  
**Chinese Grandma Clown** QUT Autumn Moon Festival; Valley Autumn Moon Festival  
**With You in Every Storm** Suncorp TVC Actor
- 2019 **Concerto for Harmony and Presto** DEBASE Productions, Shanghai International Arts Festival  
**Tower of Babel**, BARAN Theatre, Metro Arts.  
**Grandma Clown**. Brisbane Chinatown Lunar New Year Festival.
- 2018 **Monsteria**, GUSH, Adelaide Festival Fringe.
- 2017 **Monsteria**, GUSH, Wonderland Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse.  
**Grandma Clown** at Valley Fiesta, Brisbane, Gold Coast China Town, and Bundaberg.
- 2016 **Taste of Asia and Cosmic Closing Ceremony** Host **BrisAsia Festival**
- 2015 **It All Begins With Love** dir Rod Ainsworth Creative Regions. Oct–Nov Qld Regional Tour 2014  
**The Serpent’s Table** dir. Lee Lewis. CAAP /Griffin Theatre Co.Sydney Festival  
**BrisAsia Festival** Hong Kong Detectives, Chinese Grandma Clown and Sword / Fan
- 2013 **A Creation Myth tunCLOUD**, BEMAC Theatre and Ian Hangar Theatre  
**Nicholas Ng and Anna Yen** Folkloric Stage, Woodford Folk Festival
- 2012–16 **The Lamingtons** Clown for Playful Engagement Project, Griffith Uni Applied Theatre 2012  
**The Serpent’s Table** CAAP and Griffin Theatre Company. Creative Dev.  
**The Mop Up Professionals** Orleigh Park West End. Flood Recovery Concert.  
**Vertigo** Lumière Fugitive, Creative Developments 2012 and 2011, Barcelona /Perpignan 2011  
**Phoenix Rising**, Anna Yen and Co, Woodford Festival.  
**Waterwheel**, Igneous, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts  
**SES Training Video**, Reel Image, Brisbane actor  
**The Hong Kong Detectives**, Magnificent Object Workers, Clown, Noosaville State School 2010  
**Travellers’ Tales**, Multilingual Theatre Actor in Spanish, Mandarin, French  
**West End Live**, Brisbane Festival Roving character, clown  
**Eye to Eye**, Sticks and Stones Collective, Fresh Ground Residency, JWCoCA  
**Vertigo**, Compagnie Lumière Fugitive, Creative Development, Barcelona, actor  
**A Night in Shanghai**, Encounters, Qld Conservatorium Griffith University  
**Nicholas Ng & Co**, Woodford Folk Festival Wushu Sword, Physical visual images  
**Grandma Clown** Chinatown Mall, Brisbane Clown, object manipulation, sword  
**The Case of All Things**, Magnificent Object Workers, Noosaville State School
- 2009 **Fire Geishas**, Woodford Folk Festival  
**Chinese Take Away**, Neue Dramatik China, Dusseldorf (excerpt of stage play)  
**Professor Mothe Xinran**, Tasmanian Circus Festival  
**Doctors Training Video**, Reel Image, Brisbane Actor
- 2008 **The Story of Nian**, CADCAI, Cairns. Lead character –Nian, circus, wushu.  
**The Case of All Things**, Magnificent Object Workers (MOW), Taiwan  
**Grandma Clown** Chinatown Mall, Brisbane,  
**Professors, Soccer, John & Yoko** MOW, Magdalena Creative Dev. Festival
- 2007 **Chinese Take Away**, Magdalena Barcelona Festival, Spain (excerpt of play +film adaptation)  
**Chinese Take Away**, OzAsia Festival Adelaide (“)
- 2006 **Chinese Take Away**, Magdalena Singapore (“)  
**Chinese Take Away**, Jakarta (“)

- 2005 **Chinese Take Away**, Magdalena USA, Rhode Island (“  
**Karaoke King**, Short Film, Director –Carine Chai.  
**Grandma Clown** Phoenix and Dragon Festival BCC Libraries.
- 2004 **Chinese Take Away**, Transit IV Festival, Denmark (“  
**Wicked Bodies**, Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre Co / La Boite Theatre, Brisbane
- 2003 **Chinese Take Away**, Manila, excerpt of stageplay & screening film adaptation  
**Grandma Clown**, Festivale de Pallasas, Andorra la Vella
- 2003 **Monkey – Journey to the West**, Chinese Historical Association, Brisbane
- 2002 **Cravings**, Vulcana Women’s Circus  
**Chinese Take Away**, 52 minute film, Looking Glass Pictures. Commissioned by SBS
- 1998 **Load-ed Stories**, QTC-ed
- 1997 **Chinese Take Away**, Gum Yi Productions / QPAT, Stage X Festival, Brisbane  
Co-Creator, Writer, Performer.
- 1996 **Fortune**, La Boite Theatre, Brisbane.
- 1990–93 **Rock’n’Roll Circus** (now Circa). Shows incl: **BodySlam**, **Circus Under the TinTop**, **Trashed**,  
**Blood on the Butter**, **Shame–An Incarcerated Tale**.

## Directing / Devising

- 2021 **A Red Thread that Connects** Bundaberg Lunar New Year Celebrations.
- 2015–18 **Slow Boat** creative developments, work-in-progress. (Writer / Co-Director)
- 2011 **Icecream** (Circus Act for Woodford); **Deep Blue** (Australia’s Got Talent )
- 2010 **Bella Hops** (Circus/ Street theatre):  
**Stuffed Up** Griffith University Applied Theatre;
- 2009 **Other-Wise** Under the Radar, Brisbane Festival;  
**Heidi Hodeo’s Rodeo Show** 2009 / 2010;
- 2008 **Dimboola** UQ Drama, Guest Director:  
**TABOO**, Amnesty International / QUT/ Vena Cava ;
- 2007 **Stop Violence Against Women Project** QUT Performance 1;
- 2006 Assistant Dir. **Kese Solwata** , (AWGIE Winner– Best Children’s Theatre) KITE
- 2006–12 **Blue Silk Dreaming**; **Listen! Give Racism the Flick**; **Emma Miller Stands for Peace**; **Votes for Women**;  
**Sustainability** for Performers4Peace Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
- 2001 **Aviatrix** Vulcana Women’s Circus;  
**Lives and Loves** Ausdance / ECCQ
- 2000 **Manga Metropolis**, Hereford Sisters, Backbone Youth Arts, Brisbane Festival;
- 2000 Assistant director **Top Dogs**, Qld Theatre Co  
**It’s Just Not Cricket** UQ Drama, Guest Director;  
**Blissed Out...** Vulcana Women’s Circus (Adelaide Fringe)
- 1999 Co-Director **Blissed Out**, **Distraught**, **Intoxicated** ....Vulcana Women’s Circus
- 1998 Co-director **Fire in the Belly**, Vulcana Women’s Circus. Newboards Festival

## Teaching Physical Theatre, Movement, Feldenkrais Method®, Circus, Devising

- 2024 Awareness Through Movement, Griffith University Qld Conservatorium of Music (since 2013)  
Moving Lightly – introduction to Feldenkrais Method  
Wake Up! Dynamic Feldenkrais inspired sequence  
PlayMoves – Movement Workshop for Performance for Red Thread Stories  
Chinese Garden by Sara Isherwood – creative development – Movement Director
- 2023 Children of the Black Skirt, The Curators. Movement Director.  
The Portable Door. The Jim Henson Company / Story Bridge Films – Goblin movement coach  
The Poison of Polygamy. La Boite Theatre / Sydney Theatre Co – Dance Captain  
PlayMoves – Movement Workshop for Performance (since 2007)
- 2022 Slow Boat – Movement Director
- 2020 Le Jeu – Zen Zen Zo Stomping Ground
- 2018–20 Wake Up! Workshop – Brisbane, Malanda, Perth.
- 2017–20 Yeronga State High School – Y Connect Drama Project
- 1995–2020 Vulcana Women’s Circus trainer
- 2007–2024 PlayMoves in Perth, Cairns, Townsville, Melbourne, Brisbane, Wollongong, Torquay, Magnetic Island
- 2013–2024 Awareness Through Movement – Qld Conservatorium of Music in Vocal Pedagogy
- 1990–17 Community Circus / Performance Classes throughout Brisbane and Qld e.g. Tambo, Quilpie,  
Magnetic Island Circus, Island Sands Community, Gold Coast, John Oxley Youth Detention

Centre, Festivals, schools, Hereford Sisters Backbone Youth Arts, and in Festivals in Philippines, and Singapore  
2014 Movement, QUT, 1<sup>st</sup> year Actors.  
2011-14 Flipside Circus, circus and performance skills  
2013-14 Lady Torpedo Productions and Company B, physical theatre and dramaturgy  
2013 Blue Roo Artist in Residence, Charleville. Sept  
2013-20 PlayMoves – Movement Workshops for Performance  
2012 Brisbane Playback Theatre Co – Physical Theatre (2012 -2010)  
2012 Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts  
    Sticks and Stones 'Eye to Eye' workshop on celebrating difference for Contact Inc  
    Qld Academy of Creative Industries, Guest tutor  
2011 La Boite Theatre Professional Development for Drama Teachers;  
2010 Drama Qld Teacher Artist Program;  
    Calamvale Community College Artist in Residence;  
    Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University-Movement  
2009 Tasmanian Circus Festival  
2007 Interplay Festival;  
    Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts (and 1998)  
    Tasmanian Circus Festival; Circus Minimus (2008-05)  
2005 The Creative Gym –Series of Physical Theatre Workshops,  
2004 Queensland University of Technology – Performance Instrument; USQ: Uni of Qld.  
2001 Qld Theatre Company – Theatre Residency Week. Also 1997 and 1996  
1997 Rock'n'Roll Circus Professional development Project  
1996 SCAM  
1986-9 Tasmanian Youth Circus Trainer and Co-ordinator

## Awards

- Matilda Award for Best Costume with GUSH for 'Monsteria'
- Bank SA Best Circus Physical Theatre Weekly Award with GUSH for 'Monsteria'.
- Best Actor (Female) Brisbane Short Film Festival 2006
- Churchill Fellowship – Gilbert Spottiswood Performing Arts Fellowship 2002
- Matilda Award Special Commendation 1997 for Chinese Take Away
- Creative Partnerships Art and Health Award (Qld) 2014 Griffith Uni, WMB, Lamingtons

## Qualifications

Certified Feldenkrais Method® Practitioner (CFP) 2000  
Bachelor of Arts (University of Sydney) Fine Arts and Economics 1983

## Training Highlights

Monika Pagneux (Theatre mentor and teacher 1994 - 2023), Philippe Gaulier, (Clown, Neutral Mask, Bouffons, Writing, Directing); Ira Seidenstein (clown); Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre Co (Viewpoints, Suzuki); Shanghai Circus School (object manipulation); Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe of China (juggling and slackwire), Feldenkrais Professional Training Program (1997 -2000); Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, California (Generating New Material, Movement, Clown); Hull Actors Studio, LA; Wing Chun; Maggi Morrison. Practical Aesthetics with Andrea Moor; Shaolin Kung Fu with Shaolin Chan Kung Fu Academy.

## Publications

**Slow Boat** Playlab Theatre 2022 [www.playlabtheatre.com.au](http://www.playlabtheatre.com.au)  
**Peeling Skin**, Maryanne Lynch with Anna Yen, in MEANJIN Volume 57, Number 4, 1998  
**Chinese Take Away** in THREE PLAYS BY ASIAN AUSTRALIANS, editor Don Batchelor. Playlab Press  
**Writing for the Body** in IGNITE Theatre 4 July 2000, Theatre Arts Network Qld, pp 66-68.  
**Chinese Take Away** in WRITING HOME – Chinese Australian Perspectives, ed. Jacqueline Lo, published by the Centre for the Study of the Chinese Southern Diaspora, ANU, 2000 pp 31-39  
**Case Study: writing for the body – Anna Yen on Chinese Take Away** in Dramatexts ed. Strube et al 2010  
**Monika Pagneux** The Feldenkrais Journal, No 25 LET'S PLAY 2012. Feldenkrais Guild of North America  
**Essai** <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19443927.2015.1047121>