

BIOGRAPHY

Samantha Attard has always been a creative individual, exposed to the arts from an early age. She attended dance classes (tap and jazz) at Rhythm Nation and Dance Express from the age of five, and began singing at the age of seven under the guidance and classical training of Margaret Harvison in her home town, Mackay. At the age of nine, Samantha turned away from dance; however, chose to continue her vocal training. Samantha performed at countless local concerts and events, and won numerous awards for her singing at annual Eisteddfods. Samantha was also given the opportunity to perform in the chorus of *Carmina Burana* with the Opera Queensland. Through this experience, she discovered her enjoyment for singing in foreign languages, and has since explored Latin, Italian and French repertoire. It was at the age of 12 when Samantha discovered her love and passion for acting. She began taking drama classes and performed in multiple High School and community productions, with the goal of strengthening her skills as a performer. This journey ultimately led her down the path of Musical Theatre.

As a recent graduate, Samantha now possesses a Bachelor of Theatre (Musical Theatre) with Distinction from the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music. She was awarded numerous awards for achieving the best results during her studies, and graduated with the highest GPA from her cohort.

During High School, Samantha participated in a number of High School productions including *The Great Australian Rock Musical* and the theatre restaurant *Jungle Juice*. She also grabbed the opportunity to workshop with theatre companies such as *Grin and Tonic Theatre Troupe* and *Shake n' Stir Theatre Co*. In 2014, Samantha's vocal coach retired and she began training with Nicole Thomson where she began exploring jazz and musical theatre repertoire.

In 2015, Samantha performed in the Lead Role of Gabriella in a community stage production of *High School Musical*. This confirmed her passion for the arts, and so she auditioned for the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music's Theatre course.

While at the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music (CQCM) Samantha has performed in various concerts and shows hosted and organised by the Conservatorium including *Judith, Stuart & Friends*, Showcases, *Acting on Show*, and *Big Night In*. She continued her vocal training with Nicole Thomson, studied acting with Paula Dawson, and dance with Kyra Geoghegan and Ella Barresi. Samantha has also performed in the children and youth theatre programs *Safety Circus* and *Choices* (2016-2018). While studying at CQCM, Samantha has taken the opportunity to participate in various workshops with Dale Pengelly, Peter Saide and Peter Cousens to develop her skills even further.

In Samantha's final year, she took part in the production of *Sweet Charity* directed by Caroline Kaspar where she played Ursula and an ensemble dancer. Then in her final semester played the lead role of Helena in the production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Luke Rogers. In 2017 Samantha performed as Shirley in Bill Macilwraith's *The Anniversary*, a Featured Dancer and Stewardess in *Catch Me If You Can* directed by Liam McIlwain, and an Ensemble member in Peter Cousen's reinvention of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, *The Mikado*. Samantha was also fortunate enough to collaborate with Bentley Music Academy in January 2018 for the Conservatorium's Malaysian Tour of *The Mikado*. Furthermore, in 2016, she took part in the musical productions of *Carousel* directed by Jason Langley and an Ancestor in *The Addams Family: A New Musical* directed by Dale Pengelly.

Samantha was also fortunate enough to be majorly involved with set design, dressing and construction for productions such as *Carousel* (2016).

Since graduating Samantha has moved to Brisbane with the burning desire to branch into screen acting. Samantha is a dedicated, enthusiastic team player, who is hard working and a fast learner. She is always on the hunt for a challenge. Samantha is an aspiring storyteller, who has the desire to explore the world and tell the stories of the voiceless. As an innovative thinker and creator, Samantha aims to use her life experiences to bring the product of her imagination to life.

“Take the work seriously, but never take yourself too seriously... Play! As artists we have the potential to make a difference in this world. We have the power to voice matters and opinions that may not always be voiced. There’s so much beauty in this craft. It’s the craft of empathy and humanity,” – Samantha Attard, 2018.