

## EMMA LOUISE PURSEY – BIO (APRIL 2021)

Emma Louise Pursey is a critically acclaimed stage and screen actor who has performed nationally and internationally since 1997. The first decade of her career was with Frank Theatre, a repertory ensemble who trained exclusively in the Suzuki Method of Actor Training in Australia and Japan. She toured regularly to numerous Japanese and European theatre festivals playing principal roles such as Lady Macbeth, Juliet, Gertrude and Jocasta; some of which were in bi-lingual productions. Festivals include the 1999 2nd International Theatre Olympics (Shizuoka, Japan), 2000 Shizuoka Spring Arts Festival (Japan), 2002 6th International Youth Theatre Festival (Pula, Croatia), 2003 Toga Spring Arts Festival (Japan), 2003 European Regions Festival (Hradec Králové, Czech Republic), Hluboká Castle (Czech Republic), 2004 Adana International Arts Festival (Turkey), 2006 Aberystwyth University Theatre Festival (Wales), 2006 London Festival (UK).

During this time, she was also directed by the legendary Diane Cilento in her production of *Myrrah*, performed alongside David Helfgott, and became co-director of her own ensemble theatre company, The Brides of Frank; one of Queensland's most significant (and infamous) independent companies of the mid 2000s.

In 2007, Emma's final performance with Frank Theatre saw her perform her Dell'Artè award-winning role of the Medium in *Rashomon* for Tadashi Suzuki's second ever visit to Australia, after which she moved into independent and mainstage work for Queensland Theatre Company, Brisbane Powerhouse, QPAC, Metro Arts Theatre and La Boite Theatre where she won her second Dell'Artè award for her multiple roles in *Oodgeroo*.

Relocating to Melbourne in 2009, Emma expanded her screen work to include roles on *Neighbours*, *Winners and Losers*, *Underbelly Squizzy* and numerous award-winning short films. Melbourne independent theatre highlights include playing the role of Character A in North of Eight's *Terminus*, being directed by John Gauci in *The Process*, Prospero in Melbourne Shakespeare Company's *The Tempest*, and Belinda in *The Man Of Mode* at Chapel Off Chapel.

Early in her career Emma was also a vinyl electronic music DJ who played in Beijing for the Millennium, and toured nationally and internationally performing a live-mixed soundscape to contemporary dancer, Lisa O'Neill's solo work, *Fugu San* at Dancehouse (Melbourne), The Performance Space (Sydney), New Territories Festival (Glasgow) and the Asia Contemporary Dance Festival (Osaka). Emma has also produced/assistant-directed photographer, Peter Milne's *The Oddfellow's Daughter* for MICF at ACMI, short-films *The Last Time I Saw You* and *Grevillea*, and Butoh artist, Helen Smith's performance of *Lady Macbeth* at the Asia Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts.

In September 2021 Emma will play the role of May in Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*, directed by former La Boite Artistic Director, Sean Mee at 16<sup>th</sup> Street Actors Studio B where she is also a core faculty member.