

Melissa Chambers



Melissa's peer group consists of some of the most gifted actors, writers and directors working in Australian Theatre today.

Trained as a classical dancer since childhood, Melissa began her actor training with Claire Crowther in Qld at the age of 16. The following year she was named the Comalco Qld Young Playwright of the Year and in 2000 at the age of 18 was accepted to the Victorian College of the Arts School of Drama.

Melissa's first professional acting appearance was preceded by an impressive list of credits for the VCA that include Grusha in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Rosalind in *As You Like it* and Bernada in *The House of Bernada Alba*. Following a standout performance as Varya in *The Cherry Orchard* for Pieces of Work Theatre Company, Melissa made her professional debut in Martin Crimp's *Cruel and Tender* for the Melbourne Theatre Company, later appearing for this Company in *The Mad Woman of Chaillot*. Her other theatre credits have included *Oleanna* for Hothouse Theatre Company, *Sugar* for The Black Lung Theatre and *Pool (no water)* for Red Stitch Actors Theatre. She has appeared on Australian television in *Satisfaction*, *Blue Heelers* and *The Secret Life of Us* and works consistently as a voice artist for ABC Radio Drama and Vision Australia Audio.

Melissa recently starred in the upcoming independent short *Missing the Boat*, an Australia/ Belgium collaboration directed by Pieter De Graeve which is currently in pre-selection for the Berlin and Sundance film festivals.

Support from the Dame Joan Sutherland Fund will allow her to undertake intensive skills development with acting teacher Carol Rosenfeld and vocal specialist Richard Armstrong in New York City.