



Acting Agent
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Australian Agent
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Details

Gender	Female
Age Range	60 - 69
Height	165cm
Base Location	Wellington
Available In	International, Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Sydney, Wellington
Skills	Actor, Voice Artist
Hair	Grey
Eye	Blue
Ethnicity	New Zealand

Credits

Feature Film

- 2009 Greta **Separation City** Separation City Ltd, Paul Middleditch
- 1998 Joyce **Via Satellite** Satellite Films, Anthony McCarten
- 1994 Mrs Mackersey **Bread and Roses** Preston Laing Productions, Gaylene Preston
- 1994 Mrs Monaghan **The Last Tattoo** Plumb Productions, John Reid
- 1991 Fiona **Te Rua** Pacific Films (Berlin), Barry Barclay
- 1985 Malvina Jacobs **Dangerous Orphans** Cinepro & New Zealand Film Commission, John Laing
- 1982 Doreen **Bad Blood** Southern Pictures, Mike Newell
- 1980 Joy **Squeeze** Trilogic Film Productions, Richard Turner
- 1979 Judy **Middle-Age Spread** Endeavour Productions, John Reid
- 1977 Mary **Sleeping Dogs** Aardvark Films, Roger Donaldson

Television

- 2013 Judy Cooper **Shortland Street** South Pacific Pictures, Various
- 2011 Susan Ward **The Mystery of the Opals** Polyphon International Film und Fernseh, Thomas Hezel
- 2002 Rebecca **Revelations** Cloud 9 Screen Entertainment Group New Zealand, Various
- 2002 Clare **The Strip** Gibson Group, Various
- 1999 Prue Digby **Jacksons Wharf** South Pacific Pictures, Various
- 1998 Guest Role **William Tell** Cloud 9 Screen Entertainment Group New Zealand, Various
- 1997 Marilyn Bluck **Shortland Street 1995-1997** South Pacific Pictures, Various
- 1997 Leonie Coigley **Mirror Mirror 1995-1997** Gibson Group, Various
- 1992 Mary **Matrons of Honour** Meridian Film Productions, Pat Robins
- 1990 Anges Brock **The Ray Bradbury Theatre** TVNZ, Roger Tompkins

Stage

- 2012 Chris **Calendar Girls** Fortune Theatre, Shane Anthony
- 2012 Laura **A Shortcut to Happiness** Circa Theatre, Ross Jolly
- 2011 Elizabeth (the older) **When the Rain Stops Falling** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
- 2010 Mrs Gottlieb **Dead Man's Cell Phone** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
- 2010 Rita **The Birthday Boy** Circa Theatre, Jane Waddell
- 2009 Mother **Red Riding Hood** Circa Theatre, Ross Jolly
- 2009 Ludmilla **Where are You My Only Love** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
- 2007 Voinitskaia **Uncle Vanya** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
- 2006 Deborah **The Book Club** Auckland Theatre Company, Colin McColl
- 2005 Aunty **U-Boat** Downstage, Peter Tait
- 2005 Charlotta **The Cherry Orchard** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
- 2004 Ursula Loyer **Vincent in Brixton** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
- 2004 Frances Beale **The Breath of Life** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
- 2003 Flora Humble **Humble Boy** Circa Theatre, Ross Jolly
- 2003 Julienne **Conversations After a Burial** Circa Theatre, Ross Jolly
- 2002 Miss Prism **The Importance of Being Ernest** Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson

2002	Meg The Birthday Party Circa Theatre, Ross Jolly
2001	Lorraine Take a Chance on Me Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson
2000	Claire A Delicate Balance Circa Theatre, Bruce Philips
2000	Irena The Seagull Circa Theatre, Susan Wilson

Voice Over

1989	Samantha the Cat/The Sheep Meet The Feebles WingNut Film, Peter Jackson
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Video

2004	Donna Akersten The Making of 'Sleeping Dogs' Documentary Anchor Bay Entertainment, John Reid
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Skills & Attributes

Shoe Size	8.5
Clothing Size	Female - 12
Waist	76cm
Neck	35cm
Natural Accent	New Zealand
Accent Skills	American Standard, Australian, English, New Zealand
Languages	English
Hair Length	Shoulder Length
Hair Style	Wavy
Sport and Athletic	Cycling, Swimming
Drivers Licence	Car

Notes

DONNA AKERSTEN MNZM

Donna was born in Auckland and was educated in Pakuranga College and Auckland Teachers' College where she completed training as a primary school teacher, later teaching at Owairoa School and Elm Park School in Auckland.

With a strong interest in theatre she started acting professionally in 1970, touring schools with the New Zealand Players Drama Quartet. This led to a change of career to one in theatre and film, with occasional periods of relief teaching in New Zealand and Australia.

Donna has worked with all the major theatre companies in New Zealand and for The Nimrod Theatre, J C Williamson, Q Theatre and the Adelaide Arts Festival in Australia. Among her favourite roles are Mary Mooney in *Once A Catholic* at Mercury, Carlotta in *The Cherry Orchard* at Downstage, Meg in *The Birthday Party* at Circa (Chapman Tripp Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actress) and Deborah in *The Book Club* for the Auckland Theatre Company (Audience Award for Best Actress). She last appeared at Fortune Theatre in the role of Honor in an ATC touring production of *Honour*. Donna has twice won the Wellington Critics' Award for Best Actress.

She has had extensive television experience on both sides of the Tasman. Principal in New Zealand, being lead roles in *Country GP*, *Shortland Street*, *Jackson Wharf*, *Bread and Roses*, *Mirror Mirror* and the German tele-feature *The Mystery of the Opals*.

Her feature films include *Middle-Age Spread*, *Bad Blood*, *Sleeping Dogs*, *Te Rua*, *Via Satellite* and Donna has also worked widely in Radio and voice presentations.

In 2002 she was awarded the MNZM for services to acting.

In addition to her acting, in 2007 Donna re-entered teaching in early childhood and in 2009 she started working as a relief teacher in the Primary Service in Wellington.

She is passionately interested in food, wine and cooking. She has over twenty years experience as senior partner in a boutique catering company, preparing menus and organising functions for its private, corporate and diplomatic clientele. It also had as one of its principal aims, to provide work for actors between engagements.

Her other interests include cats, serious gardening, fashion, reading and petanque. Donna is married to Wellington actor and food writer Gerald Bryan and they have a cat called Parker.

Awards

2002 New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) For services to Acting
 2002 Winner Chapman Tripp Theatre Award for 'The Birthday Party'
 1999 Winner ATC Audience Award Best Actress for 'The Book Club'
 1984 Winner Wellington Critics Award Best Actress for 'Insignificance'
 1978 Winner Wellington Critics Award Best Actress for 'Old Flames'

Nominations

1998 Honour / Theatre
 1997 Via Satellite / Film
 1991 Te Rua / Film

Donna has extensive experience in all aspects of voice acting for radio dramas, short stories and documentary narrations.