



Costume maker  
Emma Brockliss

# DRESS UPS

Emma Brockliss recalls one of her first costuming projects was to make an eyeball torn from its socket but her recent work has been less grotesque.

Surrounded by sequins and tulle, Emma is running her own costume-making business with clients including dance schools and arts organisations; later this year she will be working on projects for Brink Productions and Cirkidz.

A graduate of the costume diploma at the Adelaide Centre for the Arts, Emma is the first to benefit from a new partnership between TAFE and the Australian Ballet, part of the Helpmann Academy's Ashington Mentorship Scheme.

Last month she spent two weeks in Melbourne working with Jenny Howard, wardrobe production coordinator at the ballet company.

"It was an opportunity to see how things work behind the scenes, and it

was great. I wasn't put in a corner and just made to do hand sewing," she says. "I got to see all the elements come together."

While in Melbourne, Emma went on fabric-buying trips, learnt to make a tiara and also made a tutu, which has since been sent to her as a souvenir of her time at the ballet company.

She says costuming appeals to her interest in sewing, which she initially learnt from her mum while growing up in the South East.

"I'm always trying to figure out how things are made," she says.

After a short course in design, Emma chose costume studies rather than fashion for the chance to be creative without having to worry about trends.

"People in this industry say they learn something new everyday and that appeals to me. I get bored easily," she says.

"Everything's different – even the tutus, each one is a bit different."

## GIVEAWAY

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Stomp will be at the Festival Theatre from May 12-17.

AM has three double passes to opening night, May 12, to give away.



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