

## Esmé Marthinus

Born in 1976 in O'okiep, Namaqualand, Northern Cape, Esmé began her dance journey with Dawn Langdown at Namjive, a community-based dance program, where she worked from 1997 to 2010. During this time, she developed valuable teaching and performance skills, appearing in all of Namjive's major productions, including the award-winning *Mense van Mense*.

Esmé joined Garage Dance Ensemble in 2013 as a wardrobe mistress and community dance teacher. Her career took a significant turn in 2017 when she assumed the lead role in Garage's production of *Mooigenoeg om Engels te Praat* (*Good Looking Enough to Speak English*). Her standout performance in this dance production marked her emergence as a skilled actress.

Over the years, Esmé has solidified her reputation as an accomplished actress, becoming a driving force in all of Garage's productions that incorporate text. She has performed in national tours of *Mooigenoeg om Engels te Praat*, *Krummelpap*, *Afval en Sunlightseepbaddens* (*Crumbed Porridge, Tripe, and Cheap Soap Baths*), and *STOF* (*Dust*), earning a prestigious Fiesta nomination in 2023 for her role in *STOF*.

In 2020, Esmé played the lead role in Byron Klassen's critically acclaimed dance-drama film, *Gat Innies Grond, Wond in My Siel* (*Hole in the Ground, Wound in My Soul*).

Her international career includes multiple tours with Garage Dance Ensemble. In 2021, she performed *Krummelpap* in the Netherlands, followed by a month-long U.S. tour of the English adaptation in 2023. Most recently, in 2024, she participated in two European tours with Robyn Orlin's *How in Salt's Desert*.

Esmé's journey from community dance to the global stage reflects her remarkable versatility and dedication to her craft.