

Biography

Jillian Geurts began her career as a physical theatre performer with acclaimed Australian company Zen Zen Zo. Trained in the Viewpoints, the Suzuki Method and Butoh Dance Theatre, Jillian toured internationally with the Butoh-inspired work "Zeitgeist". Other Australian Theatre credits include Fraulein Schneider in Zen Zen Zo's *Cabaret* (Matilda Award for Best Musical Production 2011) and Alice in *Closer* for Underground Productions (Brisbane and Melbourne Seasons).

In 2012 Jillian was accepted into The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, where she received the Charles Jehlenger Award for Excellence in Acting. During her time with The Academy's Repertory Company, she originated the role of Lady Anne in Douglas Carter Beane's *Hood: The Musical* and worked closely with Tony-Winner Frank Langella and acclaimed director Jerry Zaks.

Since graduating, Jillian has worked across the board in theatre, film and television. In 2015, Jillian began her long running association with The Scranton Shakespeare Festival in Pennsylvania. Her roles have included Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Isabella in *Measure for Measure*, Geminae in *A Funny thing Happened...* and Polina in *A Tale for Winter*, as well as reprising her role in the regional premiere of *Hood: The Musical*, again directed by Tony-nominee Douglas Carter Beane. Her New York City theatre credits include Irina in *Three Sisters* (Columbia Stages), Merope in *Wrecks* (Underling Productions) and Miranda in *The Collector* (59E59). Jillian is also the co-founder of The New Natives Theatre Company, with whom she has produced and acted in two sold-out world premieres, *The First Man* and *Camel*.

Jillian has been featured on US television twice, notably in the lead role for Investigation Discovery's *The Mind of a Murderer*. She works closely with director David Williams, and their first film together, *The Algebra of Need*, was awarded a Jury Award for Best Feature at the 2017 Buffalo International Film Festival. In late 2017 Jillian will begin work on *Hell House II: The Abbadon Hotel*, directed by Stephen Cognetti and playing the lead role of Jessica Fox. She will also begin work on The New Natives third theatrical production, slated for a 2018 run in New York City.