

Kerryn McMurdo was born and lived in New Zealand until she re-located to Iceland in 2015. From a young age Kerryn loved to perform – dance, dramas, characters, songs. Kerryn dreamt of becoming an actress or dancer, and had a great creative asset in her imaginary and fantasy worlds.

Kerryn was brought up in the Salvation Army (a Christian denomination church) and her parents were leaders and ministers for over 45 years. Although she is not religious, Kerryn learnt values from her parents that she embodies today - honesty, community service, family connection, taking risks, being a leader, and to get back up when it all falls down.

Growing up with 2 older brothers, the 3 adopted children found joy in athletic sports and games and races. Kerryn won many athletic races as a child, and this interest in fitness lead her to eventually train in Yoga whilst dabbling at University and then onto completing her professional dance training at age 23 years, with a Bachelor of Performing and Screen Arts (BPSA).

Kerryn worked as a freelance dancer for 20 years – performing throughout New Zealand and in Europe, Australia, Japan, USA, Mexico for established companies and choreographers, as well as working with independents. Kerryn began creating solo performances upon her dance graduation, and this strengthened her choreographic voice, and her performance interest in installation, performance art and speaking on stage. Kerryn created her artistic name: *Artillery Performance* and self-funded shows and performances.

During 2011 – 2014 Kerryn established her creative pedagogy whilst teaching at the school she graduated from – leading workshops and improvisations for students, as well as being a core staff member, teaching training classes and choreographic classes and assessing students. Kerryn also lead a hybrid-art course, which had up to 50 students creating experimental dance, theatre, installations and performances as public events. For 7 years, Kerryn co-ordinated an initiative called *IndepenDANCE* – which offered professional classes for the community, and she also taught regularly on this program.

From 2014 - 2017, Kerryn began to train in Europe at international workshops and dance festivals. This time allowed her to up skill her talent as a dancer, collaborator and improviser as she was now in an international domain, and out of the New Zealand dance community she knew so well.

From 2015 - 2020, Kerryn lived remotely and co-directed *Nes Artist Residency* (Skagaströnd, Iceland) where she facilitated and managed the ongoing international and interdisciplinary artist-in-residence program. Kerryn led monthly meetings, curated Open Studio events, Artist Talks, workshops for schools, and connected artists to the local community.

Kerryn has excellent communication skills, and loves to bring people together. She is a leader, a confident speaker and writer, and pushes creativity to the edges in the dance studio. Going to the 'edge' of ideas, emotions, critical thinking, and the body - is what Kerryn nurtured throughout her performance career and practice. Kerryn can work alone and collaborate easily. She is empathetic, passionate, articulate, and pushes others to their creative edges, concepts and awareness. Kerryn loves films, animals, meditation, philosophy, politics, yoga, coffee, nature, good food, high vibe conversations where the world's problems and personal problems are solved. Kerryn is an advocate for love, joy, peace, and inner balance and giving life the meaning it deserves. Kerryn lives in Reykjavík with her husband James and cat Lila.



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