

JULIA MCKERROW

Contemporary Dance Artist | Movement Tutor | Co-Director, Soma Studios

Julia McKerrow is an Ōtautahi-based contemporary dance artist, movement tutor, and Co-Director of Soma Studios. A graduate of the Unitec School of Performing and Screen Arts and recipient of The Creative New Zealand Tup Lang Choreographic Award, Julia has made significant contributions to New Zealand's dance landscape for over two decades.

Her extensive performance and choreography credits include the Christchurch and Otago Arts Festivals, Southern Lights Dance Co, Epic Entertainment, The Body, and The Fringe, where she received the "Best Dance" award for MOTH. Julia has collaborated with Unitec, Footnote Dance Company, Michael Parmenter, and Body Cartography, and performed for Jolt Dance at the Special Olympics and the Grand Hall of Parliament. A long-standing artistic partnership with choreographer Fleur de Thier has seen her feature in works ranging from Scrambled Legs to The Leap Project and the sell-out seasons of Orb. Recent highlights include developing visual movement for musician LA Mitchell.

In 2022, Julia and Aleasha Seaward co-founded Soma Studios – Space to Move, where Julia continues to support the movement development of the wider community. She offers regular Soma Studios classes and workshops in Choreography, Barre, Somatic Movement, and Contemporary Dance practice.

Her teaching is enriched by professional development at the Melt intensive in New York, Chunky Move in Melbourne, and with Sydney Dance Co's Rafael Bonachela. Julia also leads the Contemporary Foundation Course at Hagley After 3 and has established NCEA dance programs at St Margaret's College and Cashmere High School, benefiting dancers of all ages and abilities.

