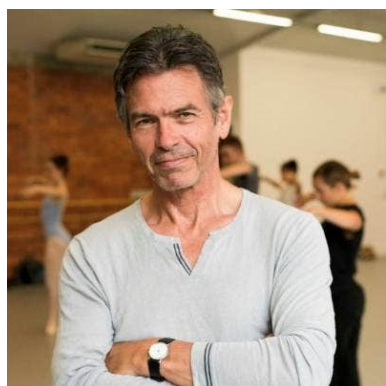


# Michael Parmenter

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Michael Parmenter is a celebrated contemporary dancer and choreographer whose work spans over 4 decades of performing, choreography, and teaching. His works *The Race*, *The Dark Forest*, *Jerusalem*, *Insolent River: a tango*, *A Long Undressing*, *OrphEus: a dance opera* are all iconic works in New Zealand contemporary dance.

He has created major works for his own Michael Parmenter's Commotion Company, The Royal New Zealand Ballet, The New Zealand Dance Company, Footnote Dance New Zealand. He is a long-standing teacher at Toi Whakaari o Aotearoa/New Zealand Drama School, The New Zealand School of Dance and the Dance Programme at the UNITEC School of Performing and Screen Arts.

Alongside his teaching of contemporary dance technique, Parmenter is also a highly regarded teacher of partner improvisation in dance. Drawing on his background of various social dance forms such as contract improvisation, capoeira, tango and swing, Parmenter has developed Piloting/TACTICS, a comprehensive approach to partner improvisation in dance. Parmenter is currently writing *Life Between Us: a manual for partner improvisation in dance*, an instruction manual for the practice of Piloting/TACTICS.

Michael Parmenter has been the recipient of numerous Creative New Zealand grants. His contribution to dance in New Zealand was recognized when he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (M.N.Z.M.). In recognition of Parmenter's unique record of dance creations he was awarded the major *Creative New Zealand Choreographic Fellowship* in 2006 and in 2010 was awarded a *Distinguished Alumni Award* from the University of Auckland and an *Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate Award*.

Most recently Parmenter has expanded his passion for dance into the world of social dance. A tango dancer of long-standing Parmenter's recent work includes his recent exploration in the world of European folk dance, with the establishment of Balfolk Auckland in 2019 and consequent upon his tenure as the University of Otago's Caroline Plummer Fellow in Community Dance, the establishment of Balfolk Aotearoa/NZ in 2022.

Currently, with Balfolk Aotearoa/NZ collaborator Kate Grace, he is teaching Balfolk workshops and curating social dance events at numerous Festivals throughout New Zealand.