

Erna Ómarsdóttir, artistic director of Iceland Dance Company, graduated from PARTS (performing arts research and training studios) in 1998. Following her graduation she worked with Jan Fabre, Ballet C De la B, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and became a founding member of the collectives Ekka (Reykjavík) and Poni (Brüssel). She has created and directed a number of works for Iceland Dance Company, including »We are all Marlene Dietrich FOR« (2005) in collaboration with Emil Hrvation (Janez Janza) and »Transaquania – out of the blue« (2009) and »Transaquania – into thin air« (2010) in collaboration with Damien Jalet and Gabriela Friðriksdóttir. In 2009 Erna created and directed »Black Marrow« for the Australian company Chunky Moves, in collaboration with Damien Jalet. The work was presented at the Melbourne International Arts Festival and re-staged in 2015, with Iceland Dance Company. For her choreography in »Njála«, a collaboration between Iceland Dance Company and Reykjavík City Theatre (2015) Erna received the Icelandic Performing Arts Award in the category Dance- and stage movement 2016.

In 2008 Erna and Valdimar Jóhannsson founded the performance group Shalala. Shalala has produced numerous dance- and performance pieces that have been presented at leading performing arts festivals and theatres worldwide. Valdimar and Erna also form a theatrical band called LAZYBLOOD.

Erna Ómarsdóttir has worked closely with visual artist Gabriela Friðriksdóttir and musicians such as Björk, SigurRós, Ólöf Arnalds Jóhann Jóhannsson and Ben Frost. She was an associate director of Les Grandes Traversees in Bordeaux France in 2007 and co-artistic director of Reykjavík Dance Festival 2014. Erna has been nominated a number of times for her work in Ballet & Tanz' annual reviews, she is a recipient of the Iceland Performing Arts Awards and a resident artist of APAP – advancing performing arts project, a European network connecting international and local aspects of contemporary arts.