

## **Nikia Manders Owner and Head Teacher**

Nikia Kara Manders BFA, MA, a certified K-12 Dance Educator, received her Master of Arts Degree in Dance Education from New York University, Steinhart School of Culture, Education, and Human Development and Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (Cum Laude) from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Ms. Manders began her training in dance and gymnastics at Jacksons School of Performing Arts and Tumble Tots. Eventually, she joined Bermuda Gymnastics Association where she became a member of the National Team and travelled to the United States, Canada and Russia. Manders also trained at The Ailey School, Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Philadelphia Dance Company, Milwaukee Dance Connection, and Philadelphia School of the Arts.

Ms. Manders has performed with Kaleidoscope Dancers, Kaleidoscope II, Rod Rodgers Dance Company, Bermuda Dance Company, Bermuda National Dance Theatre, Bermuda Civic Ballet, Concepts In Motion, Milwaukee Dance Connection, Zodiaque Dance Company, Zodiaque Studio Dance Ensemble, for Walt Disney Productions, and as an entertainer on the Celebrity Cruise Line where she toured the Caribbean, Canada and the Mediterranean.

While completing her Master's Degree, Manders participated in several outreach programmes: Kaleidoscope Dancers & Kaleidoscope II, American Ballet Theater Intern Community Partnership Charter School, and Study Abroad Programme in Uganda. Manders received scholarships and awards from Susan Carol Hersh Scholarship, Awarded by New York University (2007), The Ross "Blackie" Talbot Scholarship Bermuda (2006 & 2007), The Bermuda Government Further Educational Award (2006-2007), and The Bermuda Arts Council Scholarships (1999-2007).

Other awards received include Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges (2003), Deans List (2002) State University of New York at Buffalo, and The Bermuda Government Further Educational Award (2002-2003).

Manders has been teaching dance at The Berkeley Institute since 2008, and in 2013 she obtained the title of Instructional Leader for the Arts (ITL). Ms. Manders directed the school's first dance concert in 2011. Her dance students are exposed to the GCSE in dance, attend an International Dance Festival and perform and participate in various workshops.

As ITL, Manders was vital in reviving The Berkeley Institute Marching Panthers (marching band) where she choreographed and performed for the Bermuda Day Parade in 2014 and 2015. In 2015, she led the Arts Department teachers in presenting Elton John and Tim Rice's Musical "Aida": School Edition and since then her team produced "Peter Pan" and "Fame".

Ms. Manders regularly attends various dance festivals to enhance her skills and is a member of National Dance Education Organization and New York State Dance Education Association. She has taught Jazz and Modern at In Motion School of Dance and Jazz, Modern and Hip Hop at Jacksons School of Performing Arts. In 2015, Ms. Manders started Bermuda Dance Academy and is delighted to share her passion and love for dance