



# For the Love of Dance



By Nan Fornal, Writer

*Meet an alumna who is a dancer, choreographer, instructor, and community outreach manager*

**A**s an undergraduate on the Rindge campus, **Nicole Kedaroe '08** studied both arts management and dance. Her talent and efforts in both fields have led her to a position that speaks to both passions. In 2012, Nicole became Community Programs & Adult Division Manager for Atlanta Ballet and its Centre for Dance Education, where she also teaches creative movement and modern dance.

At age 11, Nicole began to study dance at a Boston studio. By 16, she knew she wanted to immerse herself more fully in the art and enrolled as a junior transfer student in Boston Arts Academy (BAA), the city's public high school for the visual and performing arts. Beginning the program as a junior, "she was slightly intimidated and overwhelmed, but she held her own," said Fernadina Chan, founding artistic dean and chair of the dance department at the academy. "Her genuine way of moving caught the eye of guest choreographer Sean Curran, and he cast her in a piece he was creating for BAA students," Ms. Chan said. "I also cast her in one of my favorite works, 'When the Woman Warrior Meets the Ghost.' She did a beautiful job in the piece."

Once at Franklin Pierce University, Nicole decided to go into the business side of her performance art and majored in Arts Management with a concentration in Dance. Upon graduation, she went to Bates College for a summer dance

program, thanks to a scholarship funded through Cleveland Arts Prize. From there, Nicole became a graduate student and teaching fellow at Smith College, where she taught dance to undergraduates while earning her Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance and Choreography. After her first year at Smith, Nicole received a grant to attend MADE in France (Movement Arts & Design in Europe), a study-abroad program of the Performing Arts Department at Washington University.

Master's degree in hand, Nicole headed back to Boston, where she performed with Anikai Dance and Dance Currents and helped build a new dance company, Spunk and Co., in Cambridge. Having seen Nicole in a Dance Currents performance, Ms. Chan said, "She has turned into a stunning mature dancer."

Teaching dance is one of Nicole's passions, as is choreography. Nicole was an artist in residence at both Franklin Pierce and Providence College, where she choreographed dance concerts. She was also an adjunct faculty member at Springfield College, where she designed a course for senior dance students. In the fall of 2013 she was invited back to Springfield College to stage a jazz piece, "Slap, Clap, Flap, to This Big Band Sound," which she had created for students there in 2010.

But arts administration was never far from Nicole's sights. She worked

at Green Street Studios, where she had interned while a student at Franklin Pierce. After she moved to Atlanta, Nicole danced with several companies in the city, which led her to a position with Atlanta Ballet in 2012. Nicole coordinates community outreach there and works to bring ballet to children through "Kids in Step," which offers discounted tickets to "The Nutcracker" and other dance performances. She also works on programs that offer free dance classes to children.

"In addition to being a working artist," Nicole said, "I make sure that I take dance classes on a regular basis to stay in shape and keep my body performance-ready." She performs in Atlanta with the contemporary company T. Lang Dance.

With the right natural talent, educational background, determination, and hard work, Nicole Kedaroe was able to create a career that combines the things she loves. "Without the foundation I received in arts management and business at Franklin Pierce," said Nicole, "I wouldn't be able to do what I do."



Photo by Kim Kenney; courtesy of Atlanta Ballet Centre for Dance Education