



# Monthly Report

## The Dancescape South Africa Report for November 2024

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in November of 2024 (2.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. We currently employ the services of a resident teacher, an assistant teacher, a general assistant, and a director. Thanks to the support of all those who have donated to our project we are able to preserve the Fiona Sargeant legacy. Our top priority is to facilitate classes in a safe environment for both teacher and learners and to provide an extramural activity which is good for both mind and body.

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# The Directors Report:

I wasn't expecting too much to come out of this month however I must report that a lot was actually achieved. The student numbers usually drop at this time of the year, as they are writing their year-end exams and we encourage them to do well in their academics. They did drop, especially amongst the seniors, but teaching continued.



Above and below: Our dancers doing class in McGregor.



I am glad to report that we have offered Aviwe November a year's contract and the first highlight of the month was to welcome our new teacher. After a successful 3-month trial period we negotiated a contract and he began it at the beginning of November. Welcome aboard Aviwe.



The next highlight for November was the opening of a new performing arts centre in McGregor. The Dancescape South Africa dancers in collaboration with Miss Mary and her school, The First Step Ballet, were a big part of the buildings opening which happened on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November. It was all very exciting and the dancers performed exceptionally well. Both the DSA teachers also danced on that day. I was very impressed with both Nqaba and Aviwe for their outstanding performances. Nqaba even managed to pull off the male solo variation from Don Quixote. We are very happy to have this collaboration as our dancers enjoy their Saturday classes in McGregor and I have seen much improvement in their technique as well.



Above: The New performing arts studios in McGregor



The opening of a new performing arts centre in  
McGregor on the 16 of November 2024



Another highlight happened a week later on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. I was excited to present a workshop to students who wanted to know more about what they are doing and with the intention to teach dance and in my workshop, specifically ballet. In order to teach anything you need to firstly know what you are doing. If you don't there is no way you can successfully teach it. For the dancer this knowledge must translate into the body and those who can dance well have the knowledge and theoretically should be able to communicate that to others. My intension was to start with the basics and make sure that the 13 or so students thoroughly understood what they were trying to achieve. I was impressed with the level of focus of each student and believe that the workshop was indeed a success. I plan to conduct others next year.



Above and below: Mitya teaching at this month's workshop.



Over previous months I have laminated A3 size pictures of beautiful dancers in various captured moments. These have been placed on our studio walls. We were fortunate enough to have a local photographer offer to take pictures of our dancers. Simthembile Holmes has already taken pictures of the students in class. After our workshop we had another session with over 20 students but this time wearing various costumes. We are excited to see what Simthembile will produce, and I hope to take some of these pictures to laminate and adorn on our studio walls.



Finally I must report that DSA has purchased an excellent new computer on which I am working right now to compile this report. Many thanks to the board for allowing me this. It's an absolute pleasure to use.

Written by: Mitya Sargeant the DSA Director.

## Our Resident Teacher Report:

This was an exciting month but full of fun and hard work. We had students coming in numbers for the beginner and junior classes. Aviwe and I just had to keep going and motivating the students, especially the seniors, to do well and with their schoolwork as it was the time for their final exams. We had rehearsals for McGregor collaboration and the opening of their new arts centre.

Thanks to Mitya for giving us an extra Friday to go out there and do a last rehearsal before the actual day. On that Saturday, the Dancescape students did incredibly well, and they were my highlight of the day. Everything they did was noticeable in that they had put in an extra effort to stand out from the others on that day.

I was proud of them, thanks to Lutho for standing in when we needed him on those days. We had a wonderful ballet workshop with my director, Mr. Sargeant, and it was so good, and I feel that it's worth it for these students, which will make them realize that with such importance towards easy exercises you can achieve a lot. Please let's do this again because it's good for the mind, body and breathing.

Lastly, we had a photoshoot which didn't go as planned but we hope next time things will work out now we know what to expect and hope we will at least get nice images.

In addition, Miss Mary took the kids swimming in the dam and it was a vital moment for the students to enjoy themselves than dancing and socializing with the others, which gives them confidence in communication skills.

Written by: Nqaba Mafilika.



We thank you for taking the time to read this report. Please visit our website at: <http://dancescapesouthafrica.org.za/> and follow us on social media. Mitya Sargeant (CEO, and Director – Dancescape South Africa)