

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) October 2024 Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in October 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.



The Dancescape South Africa Directors Report:

The students returned to classes after a week's school holiday at the end of September. After the excitement of the Montagu Youth Arts Festival held in mid September it was now back to basics for our students. Nqaba Mafilika continued to teach with Aviwe November assisting and teaching as well. Aviwe has also choreographed a new piece which is proving to be a challenge for the students. However, with persistent rehearsals the necessary technique required will be achieved.



Above: Some of our students with their awards from the Montagu Youth Arts Festival.

Earlier in the month I received news that all our certificates and awards were waiting for me to collect. For some unknown reason the organizers had forgotten to inform me earlier. None the less it was great to eventually have them and to present them to our students.



Above: Patricia, our general assistant, with the wonderful supply of jam and peanut butter for our young dancers from RAM.

Carol Brutton from Rescue Among Many (RAM) has once again received another large donation of peanut butter and jam which I collected from them sometime in the month. We are always delighted and most thankful for this and thank Carol and all those who are making it their mission to supply us with this to help feed the dancers.



Saturday classes resumed in McGregor this month as the collaboration between The First Step Ballet is working towards a special performance in McGregor on the 16th of November. This performance will mark the opening of a new performing arts complex building in McGregor, which is all very exciting. Nqaba has seen the premises and was impressed by it.



Above: One of our young and up and coming dancers hard at work.

This month Fanie and I resumed our meetings to finalize the lease agreement. Fanie is the Zolani Care Trust representative and manager of the building, and we have agreed to pay the trust a rental for using the studio. I am glad to announce that finally it has been signed and DSA has paid for rental and services from July to the end of the year.

I am also delighted to report that we are taking at least 17 students and the teachers to the Artscape theatre to watch The Nutcracker in December. I would like to thank Lihle Mfene for being so very helpful in arranging this for us. Lihle was one of our former students and is now dancing with the Cape Town City Ballet who are performing The Nutcracker this Christmas season.

Finally, I must mention and report that Aviwe November has been with us for three months on a trial period and I am glad to say that he will be joining the team as from the 1st of November 2024. Aviwe has built up a lot of experience as both a professional dancer and a teacher. We hope to welcome him on board as soon as the contract has been finalized and signed.

Nqaba Mafilika, our resident teacher's, report:

All has been going well this month. The students are coming in pleasing numbers. Having Aviwe has been going well and he has some nice work up his sleeve so I can't wait to see the students performing his ballets. We are so looking forward to performing in McGregor next month where rehearsals are going well and miss Mary is thrilled with the energy that the students have displayed, Dancescape students are doing 4 numbers in that event. The school exams are also taking place, but we are still having a huge turnout for classes and training the students, focusing on fine tuning the technique side.





Once again, 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)

