

DANCESCAPE SOUTH AFRICA



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for April 2026

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes every afternoon of the school term time, (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. Furthermore we recently recruited an Assistant Administrative 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:

Students returned to classes on the 8th of April after the Easter holidays. The focus this term will be to rehearse repertoire for the Montagu Eisteddfod and the Centre Stage Performance at the Artscape Opera House in Cape Town. However, this month a lot of time and effort went into preparing for the Long Table Performance which happened on the 26th of April. Two pieces were choreographed, especially for the occasion with the Art Deco like theme in mind. Aviwe and Nqaba choreographed a piece each and then I directed them to bring it to performance level. Closer to the time of the event the weather changed rather badly with rain and cold sweeping in. The venue had to be changed to the Montagu Toy Box which was indoors. Our dancers entertained the large audience of party goers who clearly appreciated it.



Above: The Dancescape Dancers perform at this year's Long Table Event.

A select group of our dancers attended only one of the Saturday Dance Classes in McGregor this month. Nqaba made the decision to cancel one of the events as there was protest action

in the Zolani Township. Protesters were obstructing roads with burning tires. I feel it was the right choice as the safety of our students is top priority.



Above: The performers at the Long Table Event waiting to perform and rehearsing in the studio.

Another exciting part of this month was the beginning of our Adult Dance Classes. These classes take place on Mondays and Wednesdays every week of the school term but exclude public holidays. Nqaba and Aviwe teach a session each at the KWV Auditorium next to our new office. We have started with modest numbers, but I am sure that it will grow as the word gets out. We also want to teach both primary and high school students but wait for more interest before starting. These classes are for paying customers and it is a way to generate some income for the Dancescape project. It also shows that we are doing something to be more self-sustaining. Below: Adult class at the KWV Auditorium with Nqaba teaching.



On Tuesday the 21st of April Roslyn Sulcas came to visit. She is a dance critic and culture writer of note. She was raised in Cape Town, South Africa, and studied English literature at university, receiving post-graduate degrees from the University of Cape Town and Paris. Roslyn writes about film, theatre and culture news as well as about dance for The New York Times. It was indeed an honour to meet her at our KVV office where she viewed the exhibition of DSA history. Nqaba and I also spent some time chatting with her regarding Dancescape. We are very excited that she may be able to write an article about Dancescape. That afternoon she watched rehearsals at the Zolani Studio.



Above top: Roslyn Sulcas and bottom, peanut butter and jam donated to DSA.

Once again, we thank Carol from Rescue Among Many (RAM) for the peanut butter and jam donations. We really appreciate it and it helps us a lot.

Written by Mitya Sargeant

Our Resident Teacher Report:

We started with Thimna and Phelo giving few dance lessons to our students this month and they had to leave after a week of teaching.



Above: Thimna Ndwe teaches.

Following the second week, we could not get to the McGregor collaboration programme due to a community strike that took place in Zolani over electricity and water demands. On the third week Dancescape students had a ballet class with Milindi who is the new First Step Ballet's teacher and they did well. I can also mention that Aviwe and I struggled with the senior group not coming consistently to dance classes, but we understood that they have schoolwork.



Above: Milindi teaches our students in McGregor.

There are several new faces in the studio which is so nice to see and that proves we are doing an amazing job. We started this month with the adult ballet classes in Montagu which hopes to bring a new audience to the organization, and I think they are also beginning to enjoy themselves in these classes.



Above: Several new faces coming to classes in Zolani

We did 'The Long Table Event' on the 26th where our students performed two dance pieces and I can't tell how the kids pulled that show off and they really loved being there and they didn't even want to go home.

Miss Mary also donated some dance togs to Dancescape SA students, and we thank her very much for this.

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)