

DANCESCAPE SOUTH AFRICA



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for August 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, 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:

Classes continued throughout the month of August and were taught by Nqaba Mafilika our head teacher and when required by Lutho Zwedala. The McGregor Saturday classes continued again this month.

On the 1st of August Dancescape participated in the Montagu Eisteddfod 2026. On this occasion because our numbers weren't as large as before I chose to use our cars to transport the students to the venue in Montagu. It worked fine and a big thank you to Sandra and Francois for helping on the day. I was also glad that once again we were booked for the Saturday session which was the final day of the dance Eisteddfod. Therefore, we didn't need to get permission from the local school to miss any school. There were a lot of entries in this years festival filling up the Thursday, Friday and Saturday schedule. I must report that the students worked very hard to prepare and with the guidance of both Nqaba and I they performed very well and achieved excellent results. These were the results:

1. Raymonda Mazurka	Double Gold
2. Ritual	Double Gold
3. Roxanne	Double Gold
4. Baina	Double Gold
5. Pain of love	Double Gold
6. Ithemba	Double Gold
7. I want you back	Double Gold
8. Container	Double Gold
9. Le Corsaire	Double Gold
10. Pabi	Double Gold



Above: Students receive their medals, certificates and the trophy.

Thank you to all involved to make this a really memorable event.



Above: All the awards received. Below: The trophy received for best choreography of the festival.



Dancescape South Africa also won several medals and a trophy. The Dance Medals and trophies awarded were:

Medals:

Best Duo/Trio/Quartet:

Ballet: Alakhe Zothe, Solima Mathiso and Lakhiwe Salman

Contemporary Senior: Alakhe Zothe and Solima Mathiso

Best Group:

Ballet: Ballet Group – Muzurka

Contemporary Junior/Senior: Contemporary Group – Ritual

Traditional Senior: Traditional Group Pabi-Container

Overall:

Best Group Entry Overall: Dancescape South Africa

Best Vocational Male: Solima Mathiso

Fiona du Plooy Medals:

Most promising Male Junior: Sive Vellem

Most promising Male Senior: Lakhiwe Salman

Trophies:

Elise Cogle Trophy for Best Choreographer / Teacher Dancescape South Africa

Congratulations to all of our students. I think that for DSA this year was the best year ever. You worked hard and you deserve recognition. After the event we all celebrated with a KFC meal at the Dancescape Office. It was a lovely time had by all.

On the 4th of August Nqaba drove Solima Mathiso down to Cape Town to participate in the South African International Ballet Competition (SAIBC). After the long drive Solima performed his variation from “The flames of Paris” He was asked to return to dance in the Finals held on the 6th of August. They left early in the morning and just made it to do ballet class at 8 AM at the Artscape Theatre Complex. Solima then danced his variation in the finals and then again at the Gala Performance that evening. He did remarkably well and won the silver medal in his category and age group. Well done Solima, you truly are one of our

success stories. Solima also received a full scholarship to attend the European Ballet School Amsterdam's winter intensive 2026. Talking of scholarship's Solima attended an Intensive in Houston, USA, earlier this year and was offered a full scholarship to study at their school. A big thank you to Kristine Elliott who arranged all of this and who has also made it possible for Solima to attend the school in Houston. We wish you all the very best Solima. Solima left on the 21st to begin his first year in Houston, which begins later this month.



Above: Solima mid flight as he dances his variation at the SAIBC. Below: His silver medal and prize received.



On the 19th of August a selected group of 15 dancers attended a special workshop in McGregor. It was a unique opportunity to learn from the SboNdaba Dance Company. The two-hour workshop also prepared 10 dancers to join the cast of a performance held that evening entitled "Our Mother the Earth". This can best be described as a moving dance-theatre production that celebrates the beauty of nature while confronting the urgent realities of the climate crisis. Directed by acclaimed choreographer Sbonakaliso Ndaba and features African contemporary dance, live music, song, spoken word, and digital projections to inspire hope, reflection, and to stimulate action.



Above and below: DSA students attending the SboNdaba Dance Company workshop.



On Saturday the 22nd Thimna Ndwe arranged for Asiphe Mangqwengqwe from Jazzart to teach class. About 15 students attended.

Our adult dance classes continued again this month and the attendance is beginning to pick up. Thank you Nqaba for teaching and also thank you to Lutho for being a substitute teacher when required.

Written by Mitya Sargeant



Our Resident Teacher Report:

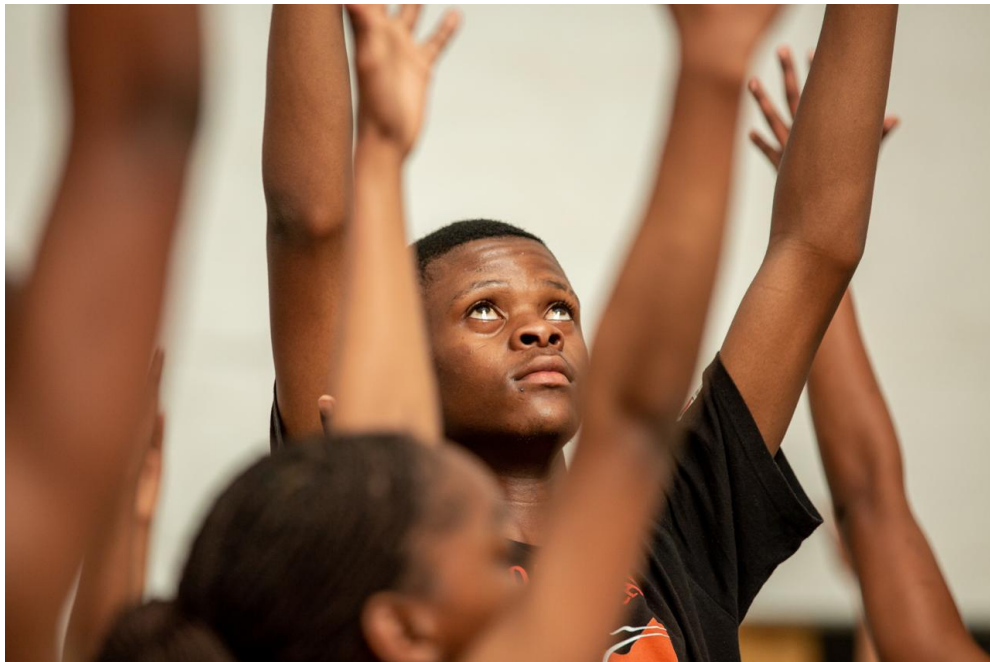
We started the month very well and our Dancescape students performed amazingly well at the Eisteddfod, I was so proud of them. Solima did the international ballet competition and took a silver medal for us and I want to thank Dancescape staff for all the support though it wasn't easy.

We did a wonderful workshop and performance with Sbondaba Dance Theatre and our Dancescape students enjoyed this event and we hope we have more initiatives like this.

We are also backed by the Gugulethu Ballet Project in McGregor and our students are learning so much in these classes and I'm impressed with them.

Finally, we had Thimna Ndwe with the Jazzart Dance Theatre members giving a class in Zolani and our students showed up and learnt a lot from them.

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)