

DANCESCAPE SOUTH AFRICA



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for June 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:

Dancescape South Africa continued to facilitate classes throughout the month of June. Due to flood damage, we did, however, not attend the Saturday classes in McGregor. Teaching resumed without Aviwe November who is no longer employed by DSA. Instead, I have brought in Lutho Zwedala who has worked for us before. Lutho is going to be a temporary back up teacher and will teach mostly on Mondays and Wednesdays when Nqaba goes to teach in Montagu. The adult classes continued but once again some had to be cancelled due to a lack of attendance.

On the 14th of June Lakhiwe Salman and Solima Mathiso boarded a flight to take them to the USA. Kristine Elliott, who had arranged for this, also arranged for one of her board members to drive them down to the airport. We thank Kristine and Dion van de Riet for this. On that day I received a message from Kristine that the boys needed immunization record and without it they could not attend the workshop. Nqaba made some enquiries and discovered that forms had to be completed and sent to The Department of Health who would grant permission for these records to be released. It seemed like a big task and waiting was required for the department to complete our request. Fortunately, Nqaba explained the situation to somebody telephonically and then everything was fast tracked. He picked up the required document in the following week, and I am glad to report that Solima and Lakhiwe were able to attend the dance intensive.



Lakhiwe and Solima waiting to board their flight to the USA

This time of year, is mostly about preparing for the upcoming Eisteddfod but this year the Centre Stage production took place on the 16th of June on the Artscape Opera House stage. A lot of time and effort went into rehearsing a piece choreographed by Nqaba Mafilika called “I want you back”. We needed to maintain the high standards set in previous years. Unfortunately, this time of year is also the time when the students do their school exams, and we constantly had many gaps in the cast especially from the senior students. Furthermore, Lakhiwe and Solima were also missing as they were in the USA. In general, we have noticed a drop in the number of senior students. The juniors are making up for it and are working hard.

The actual performance went very well. Nqaba reported that he was pleased with the students. Later in the month Lihle Mfene from Jazzart and a former student from many years ago told me that Dancescape's performance went very well and he was impressed with it.

Going on a trip to Cape Town requires planning and comes at a cost. In early June, I made efforts to broadcast our needs. Mareletta posted this on the MATA WhatsApp group. Ashton Winery responded by sponsoring the cost of the food for the outing. Thank you to Michelle and Helen for stepping up to the plate. I was also approached by Montagu Talk who wanted to donate the proceeds of one of their talks to DSA. That talk happened on the 15th of June and afterwards I was given R4000. It was perfect timing as it mostly covered the Cape Town trip's transport cost. Many thanks to Marion and Jo from Montagu Talk for thinking about DSA and their fund-raising initiatives. Furthermore, in June, one of our adult dance students, who is also a Yoga teacher, organized to have the proceeds of one of her classes donated to DSA. This was a special class taught on International Yoga Day, on the 20th of June.



Above: I attended a Montagu Talk talk after which DSA received a cash donation



Above: DSA dancers performing at this years Centre Stage Production.



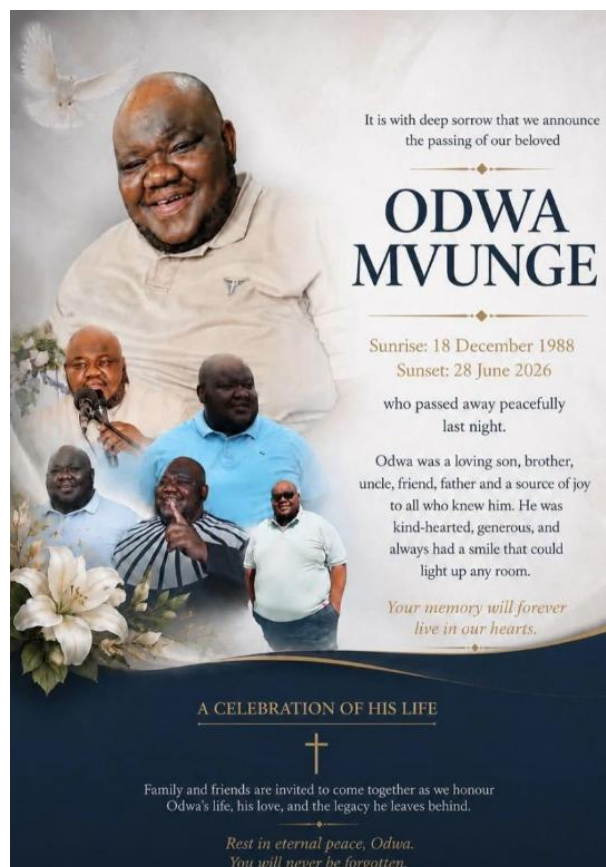
Above: Our dancer's enjoying the outing.



Above: DSA students attend a Jazzart workshop.

Dancescape South Africa officially closed for holidays on the 26th of June however, we attended a workshop hosted by Jazzart Dance Theatre on the 27th. It was an amazing event. Thimna Ndwe, also a former student, organized the day which was held at the Zolani Community Hall. Lihle Mfene who is now a prominent teacher and figure at Jazzart, taught class and later his choreography was performed by the Jazzart dancers. Milisa Mathiso, also a former DSA student, is now one of the Jazzart dancers. In the morning classes took place and later in the afternoon, there was a showcase. Dancescape, The Worcester First Step and others performed and so did the Zolani Youth Choir. It was an awesome afternoon enjoyed by all. We hope to have more of these workshops in the future.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Odwa Mvunge on the 28th of June. Odwa formed and established the Zolani Youth Choir. He mentored and taught this group for many years and was considered a legend. Often time DSA worked with him. He was an inspiration, and a larger-than-life character. We are very sad. Rest In Peace Odwa. It was a privilege to have known you.



Above: Rest in peace dear Odwa.

Written by Mitya Sargeant

Our Resident Teacher Report:

What a wonderful youth month we had, a disadvantage of not having many students attending classes and I think this is due to winter season, exams time and maybe due to parting ways with Aviwe. I am hoping when we come back things will change, we have an incredible bunch of students who have been working immensely well. Our assistant didn't do well this month with teaching, and I hope they will show interest in the future as this betters their knowledge.

We went to Artscape and did a wonderful performance on youth day and the students enjoyed themselves, Patricia was there to witness it all and I would like to thank Lutho and Mitya for assisting with classes and rehearsals.

Our McGregor collaboration has been on hold due to the repairs on the bridge going there and lastly, we had a wonderful workshop by Jazzart Dance Theatre and we had a great time as the Dancescape SA organization. We can't wait to see Solima and Lakiwe come back from the states and hope that they share with us all what they have gain that side.

It is sad that one of collaborators passed away Mr Odwa Mvunge

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)