

DANCESCAPE SOUTH AFRICA



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for May 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:

Classes and rehearsals continued throughout the month of May 2026. Special attention given to preparing for the Centre Stage Performance at the Artscape Opera House in Cape Town to be held on Youth Day in June. Also, a lot of work went into rehearsing the repertoire for the Montagu Eisteddfod to be held in Late July and early August. Most of the repertoire has been set and now just needs to be rehearsed to performance standards.



This time of year, has its challenges. The weather being one of them. Severe storms happened over the 10th to 12th of May. Montagu for once did not take the brunt of the damage but several other towns in the area were severely affected. An important bridge on the way to McGregor was washed away, affecting the Saturday Dance Classes in McGregor which our dancers are now unable to attend. Repairs are underway and hopefully the bridge will be restored early in June. The wet and cold can also contribute to students not attending classes. We do have leaks in the roof at the studio, especially with intensive rain. Many of the

senior students are not attending classes and this could be due to academic pressures at school.



Before the storms and on the 6th and 7th of May Solima Mathiso and Lakhiwe Salman attended their visa interviews at the USA embassy in Cape Town. Francois Tredoux who is on the Dancescape board kindly drove them down and they all managed to stay over at Francois sister's home in Paarl. Everything went smoothly and just a few days later I received their passports with new visas in them. Thank you Francois. It must be stated that Francois is part of the DSA team as Assistant Administrative Director.

DSA continued to offer adult dance classes at the KVV building's Auditorium on Monday and Wednesday evenings. However, several classes were cancelled this month due to a lack of attendance. I contribute this to the miserable cold and wet weather. We also now have a new challenge which could affect these classes going forward. At the DSA annual general meeting held on the 20th of May Aviwe's renewal of contract with DSA was discussed. The board decided not to renew it due to certain breaches in his contract and other incidents which we feel jeopardize the Dancescape reputation in the Zolani community. We regret that these incidents have occurred and it's horrible to lose Aviwe as a second teacher. Finally,

after waiting so long to be able to use a second teacher as planned, we are back to only 1 teacher again and this is going to affect hosting these adult classes going forward. I do wish Aviwe all the very best for his future. I have been in contact with Lutho Zwedalla who is currently not doing anything, and we have discussed bringing him in as the second teacher on Mondays and Wednesdays starting in June of 2026. Lutho is a former student who went on to train further with The Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) and Cape Town City Ballet.



As mentioned already, DSA had its Annual General Meeting for the financial year of 2026-2027. A lot was discussed including the grand opening of our new office space at the KVV building which has been scheduled for the 25th of July. We hope to have a soup and Muscadell event with the students performing and once again the screening of the Beyond Moving movie for those who missed the previous showing.

Written by Mitya Sargeant

Our Resident Teacher Report:

We had a great month working on our repertoire though the kids have been busy with schoolwork and projects. Some of them were affected by chicken pox, including our assistant teacher Aviwe but they are well and treated.



Above: Floods cause a lot of damage by washing the McGregor bridge away.

We did not have the McGregor collaboration program this month due to bad weather and resulting the bridge being broken and would probably take a month for repair. Thanks to Mitya for coming and taking classes with the students and rehearsing them when we are short of staff. Unfortunately, we bid farewell to Aviwe in the organization this month and hope he finds work in his endeavors. The attendance has dropped and I hope that during the next six months this will improve.

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)

