



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for August 2025

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in August of 2025 (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 and to provide an extramural activity which is good for both mind and body.

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The Directors Report:

On the 2nd of August 2025 our young dancers attended the Montagu Eisteddfod. This was formally known as the Montagu Youth Arts Festival but has now had its name changed to the Montagu Eisteddfod. The festival is under new management already from last year and they have been trying new ways. One of the changes this year was that we were to perform the dance section at the Montagu Laerskool in Long Street. I am glad to say that there were many entrants this year which meant that we were not as rushed to get changed as in previous years, however I gave Nqaba and the other teachers Strick instructions to get the kids changed as soon as possible and back to waiting near the stage for their next entry. It was a long day, and I am glad to say that we had packed lunch for the kids. Later that afternoon there was a mini prizegiving and feedback from the judge and it all looked very good for Dancescape South Africa.

At the end of the day the judge Allocated the following results:

Item	Solo, Duo, Group etc	Titel	%	Award
Contemporary group	Group	So as we are	96	DG
Ballet group	Group	Don Quixote	94	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Sarafina	94	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Cothoza	94	DG
Ballet duo	Duo	Flames of Paris	92	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Boardroom	92	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Probleme	92	DG
Ballet solo	Solo	Chinese tea dance	91	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Mantra	88	G
Contemporarv group	Group	Pata Pata	87	G

DG = Double Gold and G = Gold (The various groups were given a certificate)

Medals:	Winner
Best Solo Ballet Junior	Oyintando November
Best Duo/Trio Ballet	Alakhe Zothe and Solima Mathiso
Best Group Ballet	Don Quixote
Best Group Contemporary	So as we are
Best Group overall entry	So as we are
Most promising Junior Male	Oyintando November
Most promising Senior Male	Solima Mathiso
Trophies:	
Elize Cogle Trophy for Best Choreographer and teacher	Dancescape South Africa

Above: Medals and Trophies awarded to Dancescape South Africa dancers and staff.



Above: Each group received certificates of either Double Gold or Gold, Below: Individual trophy winners.



Montagu Eisteddfod 2025

I felt that this year's Eisteddfod was a great success. As our founding member the Late Fiona Sargeant would have said, "What you put in is what you get out." We keep reminding our students of this even if all that you get out of your hard work is a sense of achievement. Well done dancers and teachers, your hard work has indeed paid off. Keep up the good work.



Above: Our proud dancers embrace the Trophy for best Choreography and Teacher of the festival 2025. Oyintando and Solima being congratulated by the dance judge.

On the 7th of August, Solima Mathiso boarded a flight to New York. Fortunately, Nqaba managed to drive him down and all went well. Solima spent the rest of August in New York attending a dance intensive hosted by the Manhattan Youth Ballet. It was a wonderful opportunity, and I really believe that he has learnt a lot from it. He returned in early September and was once again picked up by Nqaba in the Dancescape Company Car. This wonderful opportunity sparked a lot of interest from both South African and international media outlets. A wonderful article was published on their front page of the Burger, showing Solima and his brother Chuma who are both very much involved in the dance. A foreign media group called Routers also interviewed the brothers and followed up with Solima once he had returned. They are hoping to make a documentary and publish articles about this wonderful story. Later in the month we heard that Chuma and his sister Milisa are now in Italy looking for work and hopefully in the dance. We wish them all the best.



Above: The Burger, a Western Cape Newspaper featuring the Mathiso brothers on front page of recent publication.

Earlier in the month I received a surprise email from a lady who is the secretary to Jilles Dulley. Jilles and his friend Misha Collins, who is a famous actor in the USA, planned a meeting with me later in the month. It was all very exciting with much to catch up on as the previous exploits of these two had helped DSA over several of its earlier years specifically with funding and the huge crowdfunding campaign before the passing of The Late Fiona Sargeant. However, and most unfortunately for me, this meeting was not meant to happen. In the early hours of the 13th of August, I drove myself up to the Montagu Hospital. It was out of complete desperation, and I felt exhausted due to a complete lack of sleep. My heart condition had deteriorated in some way. Every time I managed to get close to sleep and began to feel myself dropping off, I would be woken again by pains in the chest and heart palpitations. The body was forcing me to stay awake. Later that day the hospital managed to find me a bed, and I was checked in. I had no idea that I would only be discharged almost a month later. With deadlines and other important events pending the staff and board of DSA had to come together to help and I thank every one of you for all your wonderful help and effort.

All dance events and meetings with Gilles for example now shifted to Nqaba who did an excellent job of getting things done and keeping everything under control.

Nqaba also met with Gilles and Misha and they managed to do a lot of filming. The hope is that Misha will use his crowdfunding contacts to pull off another campaign. We sure hope so.

Written by Mitya Sargeant

Our Resident Teacher Report:

We kicked off the month with the Eisteddfod and the Dancescape students performed very well, taking home medals, double gold, gold and trophies for dance pieces as well as getting good remarks from the judges. Solima flew to the USA, Manhattan Youth Ballet this

month and appeared in national newspapers which is wonderful for the organization, he will be soon landing back and have a follow up interview with the media.



Above: Solima in his “Flames of Paris” costume all ready to shine in New York.

McGregor collaboration continues to be strong, dancers working well together, showing improvement technique wise and taking ownership when required to teach.

We had few invites to perform during this month, which we did the National Women's Day in Robertson, Cally De Wet hall and six of our dancers did extremely well. I had to cancel one at the Zolani hall because of miscommunication and we are now looking forward to performing on the 30th again in Zolani Community Hall, such performances are good to our students so that they can get the sense of understanding where they are in terms of their standard of performing and for the organization to gain respect, and to be known around the community for the work. Mitya hasn't been well this month which made me take more

responsibility and we pray that he recovers very soon. Aviwe did his medical aid course this month which is good because it would be very beneficial for him to understand what to do in case of emergency.

Our trainee students have been bombarded by schoolwork, assignments and only three have been active and taught few classes but I still feel they really need to take this part of work seriously.

29th of this month we had Misha and Giles from 'Random Acts' for a visit, to do a follow up on the organization since miss Fiona Sutton Sargeant passed away. They spent the day with the Dancescape students from school and to the Dancescape studio which was so nice for them to experience what each dancer go through thorough out the day.



Above: Student preparing for the day of filming and interviews for Giles and Misha of Random Acts.

They did small interviews around Zolani and basically wanted to know what the impact the organization has on the community and how the students are treated by their own community. Off course at the end of the day they were treated with a small performance by

Dancescape and Zolani Youth Choir and we can't wait for what they might bring us in the future as they also created a bit of documentary.

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)