



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for July 2025

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in July 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.

Inside this Issue:

The Directors Report

The Resident Teachers Report



The Directors Report:

On the 27th of June the schools broke up for the mid-year winter holidays. This year's holidays were 3 weeks long and DSA also closed its Zolani Studio doors. However, during the second week of the holidays our students enjoyed a dance intensive with Kristine Elliott. This was held in McGregor and was a collaboration with The First Step Ballet and Dancescape South Africa. Once again Kristine was joined by Ciara Baldwin and Nathan Bartman. We always love seeing these two and being exposed to their energy towards dance. The students enjoyed the week very much and on Saturday the 12th of July there was a performance. The entire week was held at the Symbulon Charitable Trust studio in McGregor. We are most grateful to Kristine for all she does for our students. She even provided dance togs including tights, shoes and leotards.



Above: Students taking classes in McGregor

On the 2nd of July, Solima Mathiso had his interview with the United States Consulate. We were very glad to have expedited this interview to this earlier date. All went smoothly and just

a few days later his passport arrived with a new US visa in it. We are very excited for him and hope his travels to the USA and to New York will be fantastic.



Above: Solima Mathiso in dance class. Below: Ciara and Nathan teach repertoire at the dance intensive.





Above: Kristine Elliott teaches.



Above: The students who attended the dance intensive with Ciara and Nathan

The schools reopened on the 22nd of July and the rest of our month was a very busy one as we had only 9 school days before DSA attends this year's Montagu Eisteddfod. I am pleased with the 10 dance entries which have a lot of variety, with ballet, contemporary and street dancing featured. Ngqaba has created a vibrant Don Quixote and Aviwe produced two very mature pieces which were at first challenging, but I am glad to report that the students have put a lot of hard work into them, and they are looking good. We hope to once again do well at the Eisteddfod which for us is on the 2nd of August and will report on this in next month's report.

Apart from going to McGregor for the week intensive, our students also attended the Saturday classes project there on the 26th of August.



Written by Mitya Sargeant

Our Resident Teacher Report:

We kicked off this month with a workshop from Gugulethu Ballet Project and collaborated with First Step Ballet. The week was amazing. Our students were picked up at 8 am every morning and provided with breakfast and lunch, after an ice breaker ballet class we then worked on repertoire.



Above and below: More class work at the studio in McGregor



Kristine presented a ballet called Sinfonietta while Ciara and Nathan did three items which included a jazz piece, some contemporary partner work and a group contemporary piece where the students showcased a fantastic approach and energy. There were moments when the students were not used to waking up so early and some got sick during the process but they managed. Aviwe and I were there every step of the way encouraging them to do well. It's been a few days now back in the studio gearing for the Eisteddfod the dancers are working hard, looking ready and I have no doubt that they will get good results. Thanks to Mitya for coming to watch the rehearsals even though he wasn't feeling great at times and thanks for giving advice regarding the assistant teachers' payments so that they do not take advantage of the funds but to understand that they need to work for it.

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)