



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for June 2025

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in June 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:

The month of June was mostly about getting our repertoire together for the Montagu Eisteddfod scheduled for the 1st and 2nd of August. As usual we have selected 10 pieces for this event and the deadline to submit our entries was on the 24th of June. Another factor to consider was that we had to get everything well worked and ready before the school holidays which started on the 27th of June. When the school reopens, we will only have 8 days to get everything up and running for the Eisteddfod. The dates for this year's Eisteddfod are far from ideal and I hope that the organizers will reconsider these dates next year. I must say that the students have worked very hard and a lot was achieved this month. I personally attended many rehearsals and enjoyed directing them. Nqaba and Aviwe have made some very interesting pieces, and our entries are full of variety. I am impressed with the commitment and dedication of our current students and hope that they will be blessed with good results at the Eisteddfod.



Above: Dancers in rehearsal preparing for the Montagu Eisteddfod.

Our trainee teachers were actively involved in teaching again this month attending many classes and are being trained by the teachers. I am once again very impressed with them and their enthusiasm. We have signed up 5 trainees and paid each of them a stipend for their efforts.



Above: The youth day event performing a piece called Sarafina. Below: A pantsula style piece also at the youth day event.



We did have one event this month and as usual it was on Youth Day. I can't remember Dancescape not doing something somewhere for Youth Day since its inception in 2016. Nqaba was contacted by Esmarelda Philander from the South Africa Police. He redirected her to me and then we had the opportunity to perform on the 16th of June, Youth Day, at the King Edward sports Grounds here in Montagu. Performing outside in June is always a little bit of a gamble as it's winter and can be wet with rain. I am relieved to report that it was a dry day. The wind was a little chilly but all in all I think it was a successful performance for all who attended. We thank the organizers for putting this day together and if it is a yearly feature, I believe that we will most likely return.



Above: Solima Mathiso, who is going to New York in August to attend a dance intensive with the Manhattan Youth Ballet.

This month I was very busy with getting Solima Mathiso's USA visa application together. As reported in previous reports, he has been given a full scholarship to attend a dance intensive in the month of August in New York. From my part I had to make sure that all the documentation was in order for his interview with the American Consulate in Cape Town. Furthermore, I had to apply to have his interview expedited as the original interview date set gave us too little time to get him to the opening day of the intensive on time. I have managed to get his interview moved to the 1st of July, so everything has fallen into place rather well. Solima is scheduled to fly to the USA on the 7th of August. We are very excited for him as he seems to be walking in the footsteps of his older brother and sister. I must also report that he has over the last year or so excelled in his dancing, and I believe he will no doubt go far.

On the 1st of July Solima and I attended his visa interview in Cape Town. It was approved and he is very excited about travelling to New York and attending the Manhattan Youth Ballet intensive. We wish him all the best.

On the 18th of June Dancescape had its Annual General Meeting. It was a good meeting and all went well. Many thanks to our board of trustees for their loyal support and leadership.



Above: The group of DSA dancers who attended the Youth Day Celebrations.

The school brock up for the mid-year winter holidays on the 27th of June and will only reopen on the 22nd of July. However, we do have a dance intensive event organized for the second week of the school holiday with Kristine Elliott and I believe that Ciara Baldwin and Nathan Bartman will again be joining her. This week is supposed to be happening at the new studios in McGregor, but I will report more on that in the next report.

Written by Mitya Sargeant

Our Resident Teacher Report:

We have been working the students very hard this month and thanks Mitya for showing up. Even though it was exam time our students still showed commitment and proved that they listened. We had a wonderful performance for SAPS Montagu and the students outdid themselves and they continue to do so in McGregor collaboration. Our assistant teachers are also proving to do good work.



Above: Dancers attending class before rehearsals

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)