



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for March 2025

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in March 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 March was an exciting month for us. It featured two outings to the Artscape Theatre, two trips to McGregor for Saturday classes and plenty of teaching in between. Nqaba and Aviwe continued to teach and rehearse until the schools broke up for holidays on the 28th of March. Classes will resume on the 8th of April.



Above: The junior DSA dancers attending class

On the 1st of March, 20 students, Nqaba and I travelled down to the Artscape Theatre in Cape Town to watch a matinee performance. Jazzart hosted the Meraki Dance Festival, and they had arranged tickets for us. It was a fantastic performance and once again our former students featured in particular Milisa Mathiso and Timna Ndwe. Many choreographers were featured and also various other companies. It is so wonderful to see so much dance happening in Cape Town. This performance was filled with energy and was contemporary in feel.



Above: After the show our students met up with former students Milisa and Timna who performed so well at the festival.

Miss Mary from the First Step Ballet in McGregor donated a large bag of shoes to our students. A big thank you to her, we really appreciate it.



Above: Students show off their shoes received from Miss Mary in McGregor.

Cape Ballet Africa makes its debut at **Artscape Opera House from 25 – 27 March** with a new triple bill, **BREATHWORDS**.

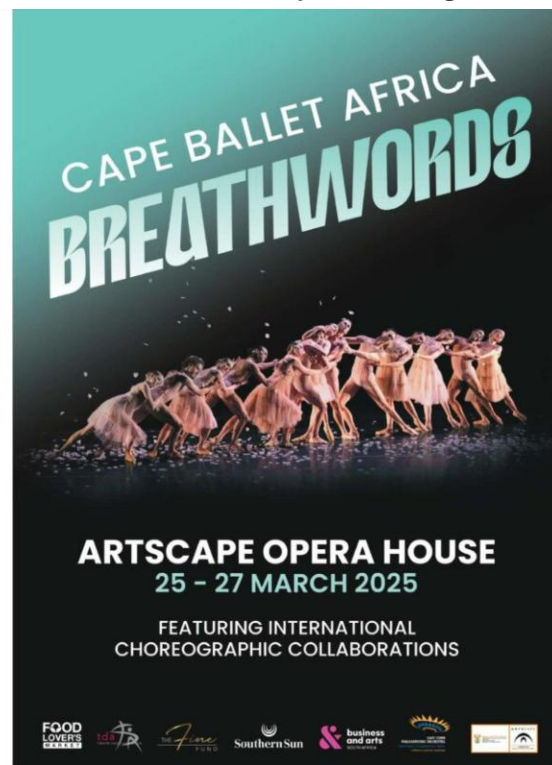
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BREATHWORDS features two choreographies by international creators, presented alongside an expanded version of South African choreographer, **Kirsten Isenberg's Reverie**, an ethereal masterpiece set to Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, which captivated audiences last year. Maggie Foyer for Dance Europe praised Reverie as 'a ballet of gentle beauty.'

The line-up also features the world premiere of **whispers from within**, choreographed by renowned Dutch choreographer **Wubkje Kuindersma**, set to Summer and Spring of Vivaldi's Four Seasons recomposed by Max Richter.

Completing the programme is excitingly **Nacho Duato's REMANSO**, a project made possible with the invaluable support of the **Embassy of Spain in Pretoria and the Spanish Consulate in Cape Town**.

"We open our triple bill with the debut of Wubkje Kuindersma's *whispers from within*, which was commissioned for the Cape Ballet Africa dancers," says **Debbie Turner, Artistic Director and founder of Cape Ballet Africa**.



Above: Cape Ballet Africa's production call "Breathwords"

On the 25th of March we once again took students down to Cape Town. This time to watch the final dress rehearsal of a production called “Breathwords”. Cape Ballet Africa presented this triple bill. “Whispers from within” choreographed by Wubkje Kuindersma from Holland, began the show and was incredible. A former student of ours, Aphiwe November, danced in both this piece and the last on the program called “Reverie” which was another fabulous piece choreographed by Cape Town based Kirsten Isenberg. We were all very impressed with Aphiwe’s performance. The 2nd piece was created by Nacho Duato and called “Remanso”. The entire program was outstanding but what made it even more special was meeting another of DSA’s former student and now a principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada. I am of course referring to Siphe November who was in Cape Town for a short visit. I hadn’t seen Siphe for many years and it was amazing to catch up with him again. He was supposed to be performing but unfortunately an injury could not make this possible.



Above: Our students meet up with former students and now professional dancers Siphe and Aphiwe November



Above: The DSA students waiting in the Artscape Foyer before the final dress rehearsal.

The rest of the month was busy for me, as there was much to do after the National Lotteries Commission of South Africa's visit in February. Also, I had to present our income and expenditure to the accountants so that they can prepare the financial statements.

Written by Mitya Sargeant (Director Dancescape South Africa)

Our Resident Teacher Report:

To reflect on this month had me sobbing with tears at the Meraki dance festival, an invitation we got from Jazzart dance theatre. Phelo had an injury, but Thimna and Milisa really performed and showed professionalism on that stage. We had a chat with them afterwards,

which is very good for the students to get words of encouragement and get to express to them (our former students) what they saw on that stage.



Above: Aphiwe November joins our group in the Artscape Opera House to catch up.

It's been busy of course with exams but Aphiwe and I have been patient in working with the number of students we had, which was wonderful because we assessed the ones that was struggling and went slow with them. A huge shout out to miss Mary in McGregor for providing the students at Dancescape SA with dance shoes and load of dance togs where now she is providing me a direct contact with the donor, so we have more dance clothes being given to us in the future. The McGregor collaboration continues to show good results as both miss Mary and I come out of there pleased with each and every student's contribution on those days.

Lastly, was the Cape Ballet Africa performance in Cape town where we were welcomed with lots of love, Thanks to miss Debbie Turner for letting us come for the final dress rehearsal. Aphiwe was amazing and had improved a lot since he went out on his own to pursue a career

in dance even Debbie confirmed to say they love having him there. A wonderful meet and greet with Siphe and photos taken with him which was so nice especially to see him in person. It was nice of him to give words of wisdom to the students and hope that we get to see him perform on that stage next time.

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)