



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for May 2025

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in May 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 May began with some exciting news for one of our most talented students. Nqaba had been in contact with Kristine Elliott in America over recent weeks and spoken to her about Solima Mathiso and how talented he is. Solima has an older sister, Milisa, and an older brother, Chuma, who are both involved in dance as professionals. So, it seems to run in the family. Well, the great news is that Kristine has managed to arrange for a full scholarship for Solima to attend an international dance intensive in New York later this year. We didn't waste any time and a day or so later took Solima and his parents to the Department of Foreign Affairs to apply for his passport. I am glad to report that he has received his passport, and we are ready to apply for the visa, but we are waiting for Kristine to provide more information.



Above: Dancers doing classes

Another exciting thing to report on this month is that the Cape Town City Ballet would like to host another of its fundraising events similar to last year's performance at the Artscape Opera House. We have submitted our application form and are waiting to hear if we will be involved. Last year's performance was so exciting for DSA. We hope we can repeat this effort.



Above: Dancers doing the barre stretch before coming to centre practice.

I was very impressed with the students who made their own costumes. It was an idea brought about by Aviwe November, our second teacher. A few afternoons were spent using material off-cuts which Patricia Chamanga Sargeant had sourced locally. Well done all for making such a wonderful effort.



Above and below: Student spend time making costumes for performance.



We are once again most grateful to Carol Bruton and Rescue Among Many (RAM) for their donation of peanut butter and jam. Having run out of the previous batch, I was only to message Carol and that same afternoon I collected. Thank you so much.



Above: Patricia shows off the wonderful donation from RAM.

Dancescape South Africa is working hard to get our dance piece entries together for the Montagu Eisteddfod. Its name has changed this year from the Montagu Youth Arts Festival to Eisteddfod. It looks like the teachers have shared the choreography with Nqaba and Aviwe both having around 5 pieces.

On the 22nd of May 7 of our dancers performed at the Montagu Museum. The program director, Mrs. Hennah Flesch, invited DSA to perform at the annual Speech Contest. This is where the local school battled it out by giving a speech and this year's theme of debate was whether museums are still relevant today. Our small group of 7 dancers were set to perform 2 pieces. The first one being the most treacherous as the carpet on which they were performing began to slip and Nqaba had to pull it away as they were slipping around like crazy. Learning from that we rolled the carpet for their second piece. Dinner was provided and the winners announced. It was a fun event, and I think they would like to use us again. Finally, the dancers pulled another piece out of the bag, but this one was unrehearsed and yet they managed to pull it off. Written by Mitya Sargeant



Above and below: dancing at the Speech Contest



Our Resident Teacher Report:

I would like to just highlight the wonderful moments we had in the studio this month. Aviwe had at least three days with the students creating their own costumes which I found very good for them as they have never been taught to do a bun or sew a dance shoe. Mitya and Solima's parents helped to organize his passport process as we have received possible news that he will be travelling to the US this year and which is a great achievement for him.

Onwabe joined this month as the 5th selected DSA student teacher and along with the others they are desperate to work hard and have shown commitment throughout this month in teaching during lessons. Seven DSA students, I, Patricia and Mitya were invited in Montagu museum event and our students did extremely well, the response from the audience was good. The dancers are performing at Artscape later this year and we are in creation process and the work looks great but needs rehearsing but sure will be ready for that day.



Above: The McGregor collaboration, dancers warming up before class

McGregor collaboration is going well the kids seem to be enjoying every moment and also looking forward to being there every Saturday and such a great thing for them to be making friends with the others while both miss Mary and I are seeing progress from them and potential talent.

Others are coming back slowly for their daily classes which is good, thanks to Mitya for taking time and going around to some of our students' homes to convince them to not give up and get back to dancing. Yes, it's wintertime for some but this effort is proving to work.

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)

