



Monthly Report

The Dancescape South Africa Report for September 2025

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

I remained in hospital until the 10th of September. Earlier in the month I had been transferred to Worcester Hospital and stayed there for about a week. My body had swollen severely but was eventually coming down due to the medication. The pain was felt most in my legs and I have to admit that I felt exhausted. I had to return to hospital for a check-up on the 17th and then on the 29th where I was transported to Worcester again for some procedures on my heart. That day was very tough as I had shock treatment on my heart in an attempt to try and get certain parts to work properly again. Unfortunately, it didn't work, and the doctor explained that it may have been too long and there was no guarantee that it would. However, it was at least an attempt but very painful.

This month wasn't the most exciting of months for the students either. After the excitement of the Montagu Eisteddfod and several other engagements for the Montagu Museum there wasn't much to report on except for the Heritage Day event on the 24th of September. There was some controversy about this event as Nqaba and Aviwe both reported that they felt that DSA had been used and that the production was far from professional. I want to discuss these issues with the management of these productions before the next occasion.



Above: The DSA dancers join up for a Heritage day picture. Below: dancing Infront of an enthusiastic audience.



Many of the senior students were caught up this month in school projects and studying for their local exams. This left gaps in the pieces being rehearsed and I suggested that the teachers try to have swings in place. A swing is typically a person who is learning a part as an understudy and theoretically should be able to step into that person's place if required. The teachers agreed and I hope that an active policy of creating these swings will be adopted by them.

On the morning of Friday, the 26th of September two very important meetings took place. It was good to meet with the teachers and to discuss some issues. Also to catch up on how they were and to review the rest of the year. At 11AM I had a meeting with Francois Tradoux. Francois had been shortlisted, for want of a better way to put it, to join the DSA board. Furthermore, the meeting was a casual way to view his temperament, and his feelings about directing DSA in the capacity of administrator. Many dance companies and institutions use this method of administration. The administrative director takes care of the financial aspects, the contracts and payments to staff and bills etc. The artistic director is responsible for each performance, the general direction of the company. Hiring and firing of dance related staff and teachers. Both halves as supposed to become one, each completing the other.

After not seeing the students for so long and really missing them a luncheon was held on Saturday the 27th of September. It was a lovely get-together with the trainee teachers attending. Thank you to Patricia for cooking so deliciously and for Aviwe and Nqaba organizing the event.

Written by Mitya Sargeant

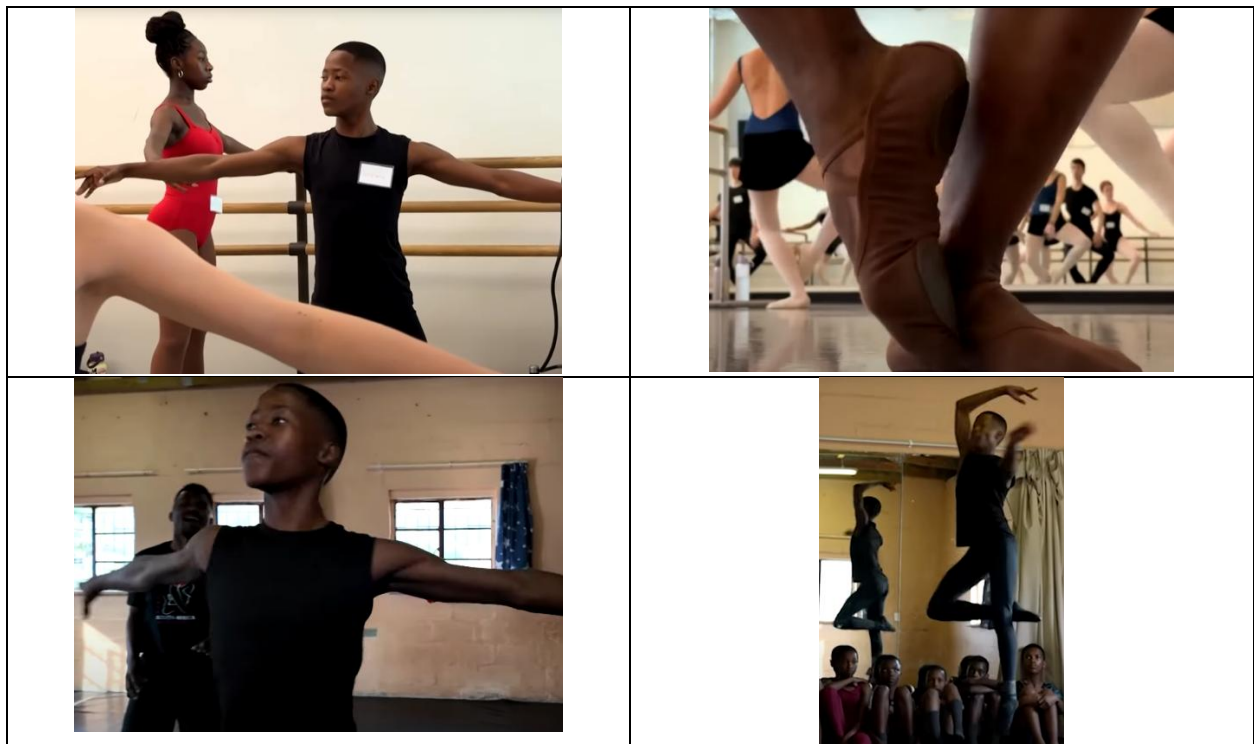


Above: Solima Mathiso is the man of the moment. Having been interviewed by Reuters, a mini documentary and article written about him and his siblings. Wow, what an ambassador for DSA, So proud of you Solima, hope your career grows from strength to strength.

Our Resident Teacher Report:

This month was full of special and amazing moments where I had to go to CPT and submit forms to receive funds at DCAS which went well and pick up Solima from the airport as he was coming back from his trip to the USA. He seems to have had a wonderful time training and doing a bit of performances with his brother Chuma.

Routers newspapers Agent came to finish their follow up documentary on the Mathiso boys which is on YouTube now and will try to have Solima sharing about his journey with our students when we have a full version of the film and I can confirm that he is inform. Mitya has been ill, but we are praying for him that he gets well, and he gets the freedom to enjoy life with his family. Mike and Vivian from Wisdom school in McGregor visited Dancescape so that they can see how they can support us in the future and spent the entire afternoon with us. McGregor collaboration is going well and strong and we are hoping to do a fundraiser for Mary before the end of the year and the kids are dancing well.



Above: Solima Mathiso doing dance class.

We continue to have an impressive number of newcomers at Dancescape which is wonderful to see and make them feel welcomed. Heritage performance at the Montagu museum was held and the only negative was that we felt a bit used and the arrangements were not well organized as we danced on the grass but the students managed. Aviwe and I are working well and had a meeting with Mitya and he told us we are doing an amazing job which requires us to come down to the same level with each student. We had an amazing lunch with the assistant teacher too and that's to Patricia and Mitya's mom for the love they gave us.

Donations were given by Kristine to Dancescape as costumes and I hope we will create a piece for those as they look so pretty!

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)