



Quarterly Report

The 1st Quarter Report for Dancescape South Africa from January to March 2025

Daily dance classes continued during school term times throughout January to March 2025 (2.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. Dancescape South Africa (DSA) was able, through the kind donations of individuals and organizations to employ 2 full time resident teachers. We were also able to employ the services of a director / administrator and a general assistant. We thank all who have made it possible to preserve the Fiona Sargeant Legacy and to uplift the disadvantaged youth of our country through dance.

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January 2025:

Students began dance classes and returned to school on the 15th of January of 2025. Nqaba and Aviwe got back down to basics over the two weeks that was left of the month.



Above and below: Students taking classes



On The 21st of January Dancescape met with the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport. Nqaba, Patricia and I met Minister Ricardo Mackenzie and had a productive discussion with him. I told Minister Mackenzie what Dancescape South Africa does and mentioned some of our achievements and successes. He was very interested in what I had to say, and we hope that something productive and positive will come from this positive engagement.



Above: Minister Ricardo Mackenzie (on left) meeting with Patricia, Mitya and Nqaba at the Ashton Library.

On the 22nd, the DSA board met again for the final meeting of the 2024 – 2025 financial year. It was a very productive meeting.

On Friday the 24th I filmed the senior students doing various routines of classical ballet primarily for Kristine Elliott. Her organization, The Gugulethu Ballet Project, will be celebrating 20 years of existence in March of this year and she wanted something to show of Dancescape at the event planned. I was impressed with the students who I can see have strengthened a lot. It was also a very hot day, but they pushed on without complaining.

February 2025:

Classes continued throughout the month of February with Nqaba and Aviwe teaching. Alakhe Zotte attended some of the classes as a trainee teacher. A group of dancers also resumed the Saturday classes as part of a collaboration with The First Step Ballet School in McGregor.

My month was busy as it's the final month of our financial year and a lot had to be done. Such as preparing the income and expenditure figures so that the accountants can issue a financial statement for this financial year. I also needed to work out how the funds received from various grants were allocated. Furthermore, I am working on the budget for the year ahead and where to apply for grants and do general fund raising.





March 2025:

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. 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.

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



Above: DSA students taking afternoon class.

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)