



Quarterly Report

The 2nd Quarter Report for Dancescape South Africa from April to June 2025

Daily dance classes continued during school term times throughout April to June of 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 teachers and 5 trainees. 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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April 2025:

This was a particularly short month with only 12 official school days in it. The students returned to school on the 8th after their easter holidays. We managed to squeeze in another 2 days of classes and some of the students attended the Saturday classes in McGregor as well.



Above and below: Students taking daily classes.



Aviwe November, our second teacher, performed in a collaboration with Dance For All in Cape Town. The performance featured the choreography of Adele Blank, Stacey Barrios and Allison Hendricks who also directed it. The production was called Un-touched and it was a revival of the inSPIRAtions company performing some of its old pieces.

We have been hearing good things about Chuma Mathiso who is currently studying with the Alonzo King LINES program in the USA. Chuma began his dance career with DSA.



Above: Chuma dancing the male variation in Le Corsaire

May 2025:

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 to discuss Solima Mathiso. Kristine then managed to arrange for a full scholarship for him to attend an international dance intensive in New York later this year. We didn't waste any time and a day or so later I took Solima and his parents to the Department of Foreign Affairs to apply for his passport.



Above: Dancers doing classes

Another exciting event to report 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.

I was very impressed with the students who made their own costumes. It was an idea brought about by teacher Aviwe November. 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.

Below: Student show off their own costumes made from material offcuts and to be used for performances.



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.

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.



Above: DSA students dancing at the Speech Contest

June 2025:

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. 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 supervised by the resident teachers. I am impressed with 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. Esmarelda Philander from the South Africa Police organized the event for the 16th of June, Youth Day, at the King Edward sports Grounds in Montagu. 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 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.

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 join her.

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)