



Quarterly Report

The 3rd Quarter Report for Dancescape South Africa from July to September 2025

Daily dance classes continued during school term times throughout July to September 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 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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July 2025:

During the second week of the school holidays our students enjoyed a dance intensive with Kristine Elliott. This was held in McGregor and was a collaboration with The First Step Ballet, Dancescape South Africa and, Ciara Baldwin and Nathan Bartman. The students enjoyed the week very much and on Saturday the 12th of July there was a performance. The entire week was held at the Symbolon Charitable Trust studio in McGregor. We are most grateful to Kristine for all she does for our students. She even provided dance togs including tights, shoes and leotards.



Above and below: Students taking classes in McGregor





Above: Ciara and Nathan and our dancer below.



The schools were reopened on the 22nd of July and the rest of our month was a very busy one as we had only 9 school days before DSA attends this year's Montagu Eisteddfod. I am pleased with the 10 dance entries which have a lot of variety, with ballet, contemporary and street dancing featured. I am glad to report that the students have put a lot of hard work into them, and they are looking good.

August 2025:

DSA entered 10 pieces into the formally known “Montagu Youth Arts Festival” but has now had its name changed to the Montagu Eisteddfod. I am glad to say that there were many entrants this year which meant that we were not rushed to get changed. Later that afternoon there was a mini prizegiving and feedback from the judge and it all looked very good for Dancescape South Africa.

Item	Solo, Duo, Group etc	Titel	%	Award
Contemporary group	Group	So as we are	96	DG
Ballet group	Group	Don Quixote	94	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Sarafina	94	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Cothoza	94	DG
Ballet duo	Duo	Flames of Paris	92	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Boardroom	92	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Probleme	92	DG
Ballet solo	Solo	Chinese tea dance	91	DG
Contemporary group	Group	Mantra	88	G
Contemporary group	Group	Pata Pata	87	G

DG = Double Gold and G = Gold (The various groups were given a certificate)

Medals:	Winner
Best Solo Ballet Junior	Oyintando November
Best Duo/Trio Ballet	Alakhe Zothe and Solima Mathiso
Best Group Ballet	Don Quixote
Best Group Contemporary	So as we are
Best Group overall entry	So as we are
Most promising Junior Male	Oyintando November
Most promising Senior Male	Solima Mathiso
Trophies:	
Elize Cogle Trophy for Best Choreographer and teacher	Dancescape South Africa

Above: Medals and Trophies awarded to Dancescape South Africa dancers and staff.



Above: Each group received certificates of either Double Gold or Gold, Below: Individual trophy winners.



Montagu Eisteddfod 2025

I felt that this year's Eisteddfod was a great success. As our founding member the Late Fiona Sargeant would have said, "What you put in is what you get out." We keep reminding our students of this even if all that you get out of your hard work is a sense of achievement. Well done dancers and teachers, your hard work has indeed paid off. Keep up the good work.



Above: Our proud dancers embrace the Trophy for best Choreography and Teacher of the festival 2025.

On the 7th of August, Solima Mathiso travelled to New York where he spent the rest of August attending a dance intensive hosted by the Manhattan Youth Ballet. It was a wonderful opportunity, and I really believe that he has learnt a lot from it. A wonderful article was published on their front page of the Burger, showing Solima and his brother Chuma who are both very much involved in the dance. A foreign media group called Routers also interviewed the brothers and followed up with Solima once he had returned. They are hoping to make a documentary and publish articles about this wonderful story.



Above: The Burger, a Western Cape Newspaper featuring the Mathiso brothers on front page of a recent publication.

Earlier in the month I received a surprise email from the secretary to John Dulley. Jiles and his friend Misha Collins, who is a famous actor in the USA, planned a meeting with me later in the month. It was, however, not meant to be, as in the early hours of the 13th of August, I drove myself to the Montagu Hospital, out of complete desperation, due to my heart condition deteriorating. Later that day the hospital found me a bed, and I was checked in. I had no idea that I would only be discharged about a month later. With deadlines and other important events pending the staff and board of DSA had to come together to help and I thank every one of you for all your wonderful help and effort.

All dance events and meetings with Giles for example, now shifted to Nqaba who did an excellent job of getting things done and keeping everything under control.

September 2025:

I remained in hospital until the 10th of September. 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 stimulate 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 in the first place. However, it was at least an attempt but very painful.

The only event to report on was the Heritage age Day event on the 24th of September. However, there was some controversy about this event as Nqaba and Aviwe both reported that they felt that that DSA had been used and that the production was far from professional. I hope to discuss these issues with the management of these productions before the next event.

Below: dancing Infront of an enthusiastic audience.



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. Then 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.

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.



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.

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)