



Quarterly Report

The 4th Quarter Report for Dancescape South Africa from October to December 2024

Daily dance classes continued during school term times throughout October to December of 2024 (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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October 2024:

The students returned to classes after a week's school holiday at the end of September. After the excitement of the Montagu Youth Arts Festival held in mid-September it was now back to basics for our students. Nqaba Mafilika continued to teach with Aviwe November assisting and teaching as well. Aviwe has also choreographed a new piece which is proving to be a challenge for the students. However, with persistent rehearsals the necessary technique required will be achieved.

Aviwe November has been with us for three months on a trial period and I am glad to say that he will be joining the team as from the 1st of November 2024. Aviwe has built up a lot of experience as both a professional dancer and a teacher. We hope to welcome him on board as soon as the contract has been finalized and signed.



Above: Some of our students with their awards from the Montagu Youth Arts Festival.

Saturday classes resumed in McGregor this month as the collaboration between The First Step Ballet is working towards a special performance in McGregor on the 16th of November. This performance will mark the opening of a new performing arts complex building in McGregor, which is all very exciting. Nqaba has seen the premises and was impressed by it.



Above: One of our young and up and coming dancers hard at work.

This month Fanie and I resumed our meetings to finalize the lease agreement. Fanie is the Zolani Care Trust representative and manager of the building, and we have agreed to pay the trust a rental for using the studio. I am glad to announce that finally it has been signed and DSA has paid for rental and services from July to the end of the year.

November 2024:

The student numbers usually drop at this time of the year, as they are writing their year-end exams, and we encourage them to do well in their academics. They did drop, especially amongst the seniors, but teaching continued.



Above and below: Our dancers doing class in McGregor.



The next highlight for November was the opening of a new performing arts centre in McGregor. The Dancescape South Africa dancers in collaboration with Miss Mary and her school, The First Step Ballet, were a big part of the buildings opening which happened on the 16th of November. It was all very exciting, and the dancers performed exceptionally well. Both the DSA teachers also danced on that day. I was very impressed with both Nqaba and Aviwe for their outstanding performances. Nqaba even managed to pull off the male solo variation from Don Quixote. We are very happy to have this collaboration as our dancers enjoy their Saturday classes in McGregor and I have seen much improvement in their technique as well.



The opening of a new performing arts centre in McGregor on the 16 of November 2024





Above: The New performing arts studios in McGregor

Another highlight happened a week later on Saturday the 23rd of November. I was excited to present a workshop to students who wanted to know more about what they are doing and with the intention to teach dance and in my workshop, specifically ballet. In order to teach anything you need to firstly know what you are doing. If you don't there is no way you can successfully teach it. For the dancer this knowledge must translate into the body and those who can dance well have the knowledge and theoretically should be able to communicate that to others. My intention was to start with the basics and make sure that the 13 or so students thoroughly understood what they were trying to achieve. I was impressed with the level of focus of each student and believe that the workshop was indeed a success. I plan to conduct others next year.





Above and below: Mitya teaching at this month's workshop.



December 2024:

Even though December is a short month for Dancescape South Africa we had two very exciting events.

The first was a performance in McGregor on Friday the 6th of December. I was approached by the Langeberg Municipality to participate at this years turning on of the Christmas lights in McGregor. We were told that we would be dancing on the main street and so we chose two pieces which were more street dancing style dances. The municipality organized the entire event which included transportation and something for the dancers to eat. The other performers were the Zolani Youth Choir, The Ashton School of Dance and The First Step Ballet to name a few. We all delighted the large crowd, and it was a lovely evening.



Above: The junior dancers performing in McGregor.



Above: The seniors performing at the turning on of the lights in McGregor.

The next highlight of the month was to watch *The Nutcracker* at the Artscape Theatre, performed by the Cape Town City Ballet. 16 students, the two teachers, and Patricia and I travelled down on Saturday the 14th on a Swanns Bus. Our first stop was in Worcester where we all had a meal at a KFC. This meal was made possible by the Ashton Winery, and we are very grateful for their support. The students enjoyed it, and everybody got back on the bus with full bellies. Next, we had a stop off in Seapoint to see the sea. The kids always love this and for some it is a first for them. Then to the Artscape Theatre complex. *The Nutcracker* is such a wonderful ballet for this time of the year, and it didn't disappoint. I can safely report that every one of our students really enjoyed it, and I am sure it will make wonderful memories for them. After the performance we met up with Lihle Mfene who was instrumental in getting us complimentary tickets for the show. It was also great to see him dancing in the production. We thank you Lihle for making it possible.



Above: Outside the Artscape Theatre complex.





Above: The students enjoying a KFC lunch, the sea and meeting with Lihle Mfene.

Well, that's our year rapped up. I pray that all the DSA staff and students have a safe holiday and that we can all come back together next year in 2025. Thanks to all for a successful year and for all your hard work and dedication. God Bless.

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)