

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) February 2022 Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in February 2022 (2.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions, however due to the Covid 19 pandemic our classes are restricted in numbers attending. We observe the relevant protocols such as screening the students before class, observing body temperature, sanitizing hands and to observing social distancing. Our top priority is to facilitate classes in a safe environment for both teacher and learners.

The Dancescape South Africa Directors Report:

This month continued as usual with the daily dance classes. Nqaba our resident teacher has noticed many new students attending and numbers are growing.



Above and below: Students attending classes in February. The teacher is Nqaba Mafilika.



On Monday and Tuesday afternoons of this month, our kids received food from the soup kitchen. The Zolani Hope centre is making use of the kitchen to provide soup to the kids and the community. We are very happy for this and hope they will continue to provide food and perhaps offer it on more afternoons of the week. DSA has been supplementing the soups with bread and we also provided much needed plastic plates.



Above: A big thank you to Sandra Reichert our DSA chairperson who kindly donated some fruit to the students. Our general assistant, Patricia Chimanga Sargeant with some of the dancers.

On the 16th of February DSA had it's final meeting of trustees for the 2022 financial year. Much was discussed and reported on. We are hoping to increase the size of the board this year to five members if possible.

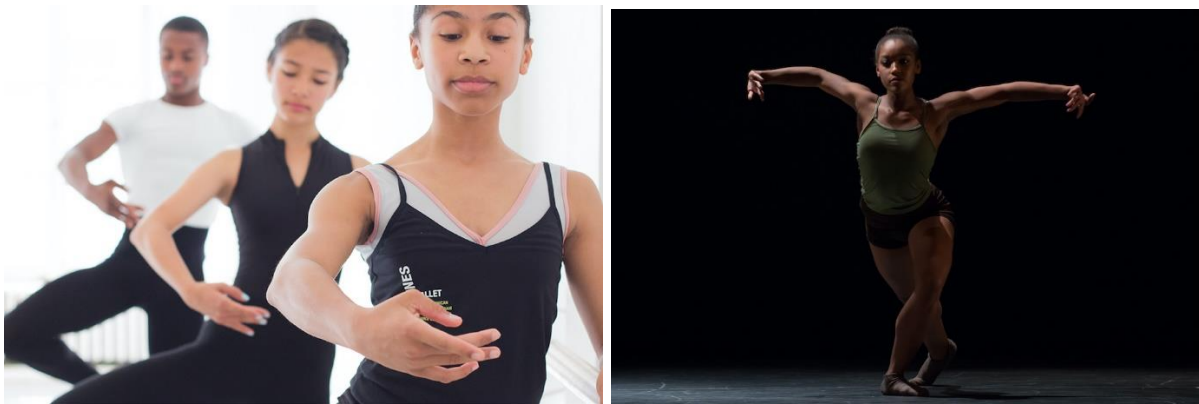
I am very excited to report that two of our male students have been offered a full scholarship for both tuition and housing to attend the LINES Ballet Advanced Summer Program in San Francisco, California (USA). This dance incentive will take place over three weeks starting from the 17th of July and ending on the 5th of August 2022. It's going to be an amazing opportunity for both Aphiwe November and Chuma Mathiso.



From the invitation received: “This challenging three-week program supports the growth of the advanced dancer ages 14-17. Our program focuses on developing individual artistry, increasing technical proficiency, and immersing students in a rich creative process that supports artistic risk-taking and independent thinking. It includes Ballet, Contemporary, Choreographic Process, GYROTONIC® & GYROKINESIS®, LINES Ballet Repertoire, Improvisation, Modern, Pointe and Partnering.”

Left: A happy Aphiwe November on hearing the news of his scholarship.

Kristine Elliott who as director of the Gugulethu Ballet Project was instrumental in making it possible and it was great to inform the boys about the program. However, I was concerned that the timing of the program could have consequences for their schoolwork and preparations for their exams. Chuma Mathiso is currently in his final year at school and will be writing his all-important Matric exams at the end of the year. Aphiwe is in Grade eleven, also considered a very important year leading up to Matric. With this in mind I had a meeting with the school headmaster, Mr Lyon. He was in favour of the boys attending the event but said that he would arrange meetings with their educators to discuss ways to supplement their schooling so that they could go. Permission to attend the summer school was granted. I shall report back in future months as to how the applications for Visa's are going and the bookings of flights, etc.



Above: From the Alonzo King Lines Ballet education program.

I regret to report that the building work has not been finished. Fanie Tshoto, the Zolani Hope Centre Manager has been unable to have any of the building work done this month. I reported on the progress in January and since then nothing has been done. I managed to speak with him on the 25th of February and he has told me that work will start again in early March. It has been very frustrating for me. I hope that the issue will be resolved soon.

This month I heard that one of our former students who we supported in 2021, Milisa Mathiso, has joined a dance group in Cape Town called, SboNdaba Dance. The former director of the INDONI Dance Arts and Leadership Academy, Sbonakaliso Ndaba, is now the new director of SboNdaba Dance of which Milisa has been invited to join. The company is launching on 1 March 2022, SboNdaba Dance is being established as a non-profit dance company to provide professional training, to create work opportunities for young artists and to generate unique

South African choreography. I am excited and pleased that Milisa has some work opportunities and wish her the very best with this new venture.

Below: Milisa Mathiso former DSA student has joined SboNdaba Dance



The Resident Teachers Report:

This is my report for February 2022, I have been working hard during this month and had a big turnover of students coming for their daily classes not less than 50. We keep them fit in doing new work. Choreographically, they show a tremendous commitment. The Dancescape students were invited by Zolani cp school to perform on the 11/02/2022 on their fashion show where the students were a showstopper and lastly on the 26/02/2022 are invited to perform for a ministry's Sunday school in the community. – Nqaba Mafilika



Above and below: DSA students dancing at the CP School fashion show earlier in February



Once again, 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)

