

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) September 2023 Monthly Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in September of 2023 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. We currently employ the services of a resident teacher, a general assistant and a director. Thanks to the support of all those who have donated to our project we are able to preserve the Fiona Sargeant legacy. Our top priority is to facilitate classes in a safe environment for both teacher and learners.

The Dancescape South Africa Directors Report:

In the month of September, Nqaba continued to teach daily classes at the Zolani Hope Centre. However, the numbers were erratic, and we think it was because of the students having to spend more time preparing for their school exams. The weather was also a deterrent, especially towards the end of the month as there was a large amount of rain which caused localized flooding and resulted in some of the classes being cancelled. On Friday the 29th of September the studio will close in line with the Government school closing for a holiday period. Classes will resume on the 10th of October.



Above: Students of all ages attending daily class

Earlier in the month I received news from the National Arts Council (NAC) that they had approved a grant. It was not as much as what we had applied for, but I later learned that they don't give the applicants the full amount. I had to upload more information with details of a revised budget. We are waiting on the NAC to approve this revised budget and then to send a final agreement. We are also waiting for a response from the National Lotteries Commission regarding the application for funding submitted in August 2023.



Above: The students learning a new ballet.

I also spent a lot of time working on the budget for the remaining part of our 2024 fiscal year. That is, working out exactly how we plan to allocate the funds received from the various grants which were applied for and that have been approved.

I have asked Nqaba to compile a list of the students' clothing sizes so that we can once again place an order with Ballet World, for more dance outfits. Leotards, unitards, skirts and tights are required for the students who don't have any. Also, when we do issue the togs the students and parents will be required to return them at the end of the year. The reason for this is

because then we can put them in safekeeping and often time many of the students don't return the following year and we can then issue the outfits to others who will be joining us next year.

I finally heard back from Fanie, the Zolani Care Trust manager/director after our meeting in late August where we discussed the payment of services and the fixing of the dance floor. It has since been agreed that we will pay more for the services and that we can go ahead and fix the floor.



Above: Nqaba our resident teacher (Centre) with some of the DSA students.

The Resident Teachers Report (Nqaba Mafilika):

This month we have mostly focused on our daily classes because the students were busy with their school exams and have been coming to classes in small numbers. We have been doing classes very slowly, explaining exercises and reasons why we are doing them and trying to strengthen their technique which is giving them balancing exercises. We added new repertoire to our work which is coming on nicely, so to mention again some of the students have been coming and some have been not because of the cold and rainy weather. On Monday 25th had to cancel because of rain.

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)

