

## **Dancescape South Africa (DSA) October 2022 Report**

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in October of 2022 (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:**

This month continued much the same as in September. Nqaba Mafilika continued to teach and rehearse every afternoon of the week except during the holiday time. We are preparing for Sarmie Marathon performance to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November in Ashbury, Montagu.



*Above and below: Students in rehearsal*



*Below: Students ready to be transported to the Jazzart Audition in Cape Town*



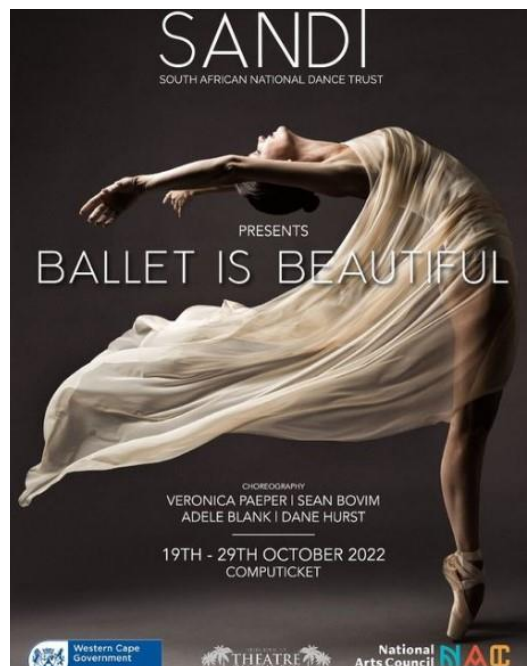
On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October I drove three students to the Jazzart auditions held at the Artscape Theatre in Cape Town. I couldn't watch as it was a closed-door audition but heard all about it from the students later. Chuma Mathiso, Phelo Ngxukuma and Thimna Ndwe were joined by Milisa Mathiso who also auditioned on that day. Jazzart is looking for students to join their training program next year. They began the day at 9 o'clock and only finished at 4PM. It was a long and grueling day of dance and everybody was very tired afterwards. Lihle Mfene assisted at the audition and told me afterwards that the students did very well. Later in the month Phelo was the first to report that he had been shortlisted to attend another audition to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. Days later Chuma told me that he has been accepted into next years training program and soon after that I heard that Milisa and Thimna have also been accepted. Congratulations guys and all the very best to Phelo for the upcoming audition.



***Above and below: Lihle Mfene, a former DSA student is currently working for SANDT***



I am very proud of Lihle Mfene who danced in his first season with the South African National Dance Trust at the Theatre on The Bay in Cape Town. Well done, Lihle, keep the good work up. The performance called “Ballet Is Beautiful” featured choreography by Veronica Paeper, Sean Bovim, Adele Blank and Dane Hurst who is the new artistic director of Jazzart.



This month I received news from the National Arts Council. They informed me that they our application for a grant was successful. I have subsequently provided them with some of the additional information required, at this stage of the application and hope all will go well going forward. We hope to receive some additional funding from them soon.

Rescue Among Many (RAM) donated some tasty treats for our kids this month which I distributed to many happy students. Thank you so much to Carol and RAM for bringing such joy to our young students.



***Above: Our students happy to receive the treats from RAM***

We were visited by Atlantis Alive, who filmed our students and Mareletta Munday interviewed both Nqaba and I. Atlantis Alive is a YouTube channel where they make videos covering, matters of faith, they track education, youth, skills and development, elderly people, family and children, sports, business and much more. Earlier in the month I submitted an article to the Ashton Winery about the DSA project. This is hopefully going to be featured in the Winelands Magazine. I wrote

about our history and how DSA came into being with its primary focus on preserving the Fiona Sargeant Legacy.



This month it came to my attention that Dancescape South Africa may be asked to leave the Zolani Hope Centre. I can't elaborate much more on how I received this disturbing information as we are still trying to find out if there is any truth to it all. Days later, I approached Fanie Tshoto, who is on the Zolani Care Trust board, for clarity. He assured me that there was no intention to ask our organization to leave. None the less, before that, I made contact with the Langeberg Municipality and a local ward councilor to find out where exactly we stand if it should suddenly become a reality. It is too early to report on any developments in this regard. One thing for sure is that we don't want to be forced to leave the Zolani Township as we have made an impression in the community and provided hope for your students, many of whom have benefited from our classes and even gone on to dance professionally.

#### **The Resident Teachers Report:**

My report for the month of October. After a short break from school holidays, we are back in studio working on new repertoire with new work by Phelo and Lihle. The attendance is still looking great having about 50 students attending daily. The good news is having Chuma accepted at Jazzart for next year and Phelo been asked to come back and reaudition. The students are working extremely hard, and I am happy, and they also can't wait for the performance on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. We were delighted to have television people in the studio. We were just unfortunate not to get a visitation from Sisley Loubert Lawrence but hope in the future she will make a return.

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)