

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) February 2023 Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in February 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:

Nqaba Mafilika, our resident teacher, continued to teach daily this month at the Zolani Hope Centre. He even managed to prepare two mini performances in early February. Unfortunately, in that first week of this month my heart condition deteriorated, and I had to visit the Montagu Hospital several times. I was diagnosed with heart failure many years ago whilst the Late Fiona Sargeant was still alive. The doctors also concluded that my heart has enlarged. For the first time since my initial diagnosis, and starting several weeks ago, I began to feel pain in my chest, and this was very alarming to me. I am now back on medication and must adjust my life accordingly.

The Ashton Winery offered this month to provide our students with a sandwich for a week. Not only were sandwiches on offer but also other tasty treats which our youth of today enjoy so much. Thank you to Michelle and Helen at the winery for initiating this, we so appreciate it. I am also excited to announce that we have been given a performance opportunity at the end of March 2023. The winery and Montagu Ashton Tourism is hosting an Art Nouveau like evening at a venue just outside Montagu called Cabrieres de avignon. DSA will be collaborating with the Zolani Youth Choir and RAM for the evening and proceeds will be going towards our organizations. We have been commissioned to perform two dance pieces to dance on the night. Below: The students show off the sandwiches and treats dropped off by the Ashton Winery.



Later in the month Carol from Rescue Among Many (RAM) gave us a surprise visit and dropped off cookies, Muesli and a huge bag of carrots. We are also very grateful for this and thank Carol for her ongoing support.



Above: Patricia showing the items RAM donated to our students.

Whilst Kristine Elliott was still in Montagu at the time of her workshop, she expressed concern for one of our young male dancers. His name is Endinako Dyan and he has a severe squint in both of his eyes. Kristine and her friend Heidi Sulcas made some enquiries and managed to arrange for an appointment with a leading eye specialist in Cape Town. It was my job to drive both Endinako and his mother

Wakhanya down to Wynberg on the 17th of February. Fortunately, by that time I was feeling well enough to do so. I joined the two and heard what Dr Gavin Galloway diagnosis was. Fortunately for Endinako he responded very well to the surgeons' tests who concluded that his eyes were still very good and an operation would fix the squint. All of this has been presented along with a quote on the cost of the operation to Kristine and I am waiting to find out what will be decided upon.

This month saw the beginning of a collaboration between Dancescape South Africa and Mary Corp Silver's First Step Dance School in MacGregor. Mary is providing transport to ten of our students and Nqaba to travel on two Saturdays of every month to MacGregor where both Nqaba and Mary will teach and rehearse repertoire. It all very exciting and I look forward to what will come of it in future months.



Above: The collaboration between DSA and the First Step Ballet with classes in MacGregor.

On the 23rd, the DSA board of trustees met for our final meeting of this financial year. It was a good meeting with much being discussed. Our next meeting is going to be a annual general meeting to be

held in early May of 2023. I reported back on many of the events of the previous year, and we discussed some exciting ideas, one of which was a special event planned for this year's World Ballet Day also called International Ballet Day in October/November.

This month I received an email from Ann Hall. We last communicated in 2022 regarding a vinyl floor for our studio. She had by that time returned to her homeland, England, and set up a funding campaign to raise enough money to buy the floor. Ann requested that we send her the measurement of our floor space. I can only conclude that something must be happening on her side, we hope so.

Nqaba Mafilika, our resident teacher, reports back:

Dancescape SA students had two mini performances on the 3rd of February where they danced for their school event in the community hall which we do allow so that they can expose themselves to their fellow classmates. On the 4th, they were invited to performed for a local church and this happened because some of their peers in the church saw them at school event and decided that they need to also partake in their event. The response was positive, and I thought it was a good way for the students to start off the year. Phelo was on leave from Cape Town for his grandmother's funeral and he managed to get some time and gave a class or two.

The Dancescape students were fortunate enough to receive sandwiches from the Ashton Winery, they gave the students on the first day a chicken mayo sandwich, cooldrink and lucky packet which a Nik Naks and a fizzer. The other days would be an egg mayo or bread and polony sandwich, the kids loved this and wished it could happen often.

On the 18th, the Gugulethu Ballet Project introduced a collaboration between Dancescape and First Step Ballet in MacGregor. Hoping to meet for two Saturdays every month of 2023. Mary and I are giving various dance classes including repertoire to about 20 selected students from 10hoo in morning till 16hoo in the afternoon. On the Dancescape side, I gave this opportunity to kids that were nearing their matric year so that at least this helps them to better their dancing before deciding on their career path. Of course, all of these students I picked for their loyalty to the organization and commitment to their daily classes. They also get lunch which is kindly provide by Dancescape and since they just started, I feel they are enjoying every moment.

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)