

## **Dancescape South Africa (DSA) April 2023 Report**

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

The month of April 2023 was a short one for DSA with only 11 teaching days available. The schools broke up on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and only opened again on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. However, many of the students asked Nqaba to teach them during the holiday period, which he did. I asked him how his holiday break had been, and he reported his busy week of teaching to me. Classes then got back into normal routine once the schools opened and Nqaba returned to the basics, teaching technique classes. We are, however, also beginning our preparations for the Montagu Youth Arts Festival, which for us is always a big event in August. Music, choreography, and costumes need to be organized and transport and other logistics planned way in advance.



Above: Nqaba teaching some junior dancers.

Even though the Gatsby charity evening happened on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, it was too late for me to report on in our March report, therefore I will be reporting on this event now. This collaboration between the Montagu Ashton Tourism (MATA) and the Ashton Winery turned out to be a wonderful evening for both the audience and the performers. Nqaba prepared three pieces for the event, and they all were received very well. The stage was far from ideal and the lighting nonexistent, but our young dancers really enjoyed themselves and so did the large crowd who were supporting the three charities that evening. DSA was the first to perform and danced a piece called “The Entertainer” I then as DSA’s director spoke about our organization. “Ahoy” Nqaba’s next piece, a very entertaining tap dance, followed. And then finally after a huge encore and allowing the kids to change costumes, they performed a funky piece to the music of Mango Groove. The other charities represented on that evening were Rescue Among Many (RAM) and the Zolani Youth Choir. I am sure that those supporting our cause really enjoyed the event.





Nqaba escorted a batch of students again this month to McGregor as part of our collaboration with the Next Step Ballet. The first trip was over the Easter Weekend and then again on the last Saturday of April.



### **The Resident Teachers Report (Nqaba Mafilika):**

This is my report for the month of April. The students have been working well this month fine tuning their bodies since the month had so many holidays, but I am getting them to work on strength and technique and strengthening their repertoire. We have newcomers as well, which can sometimes be a challenge to keep them in the same pace as the others but I like it because we get to go back to basics and have new exercises for the experienced students. I tried this month as well to challenge the students to go and research about the various forms or genres of dance that they take with me on daily basis so that they get to learn about where the actual style existed and some responded well and, shared with the others about the style and history of dance chosen. Regarding Saturday classes, the Dancescape students keep showing interest

attending those classes and there is a good relationship happening between both groups and I still feel that there is more that can be still achieved as time goes by.

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)