

## Dancescape South Africa (DSA) June 2023 Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in June 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 June brought with it a sharp decrease in temperature and lots of rain, but this didn't dampen the spirits of our students who continued to attend classes in large numbers. The students also had to deal with their school exams. Ngqaba continued to work hard and spent a lot of time rehearsing the repertoire for the upcoming Montagu Youth Arts Festival in August. Once the students have returned from school holidays, we have less than three weeks to get our entries up to performance level. The DSA studio closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June and will open again on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, which happens to be Nelson Mandela Day.

I spent a lot of time getting our entries together for the Youth Festival and submitting grant applications to both the National Arts Council and the National Lottery Commission. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June I drove Endinako Dyan and his mother down to Cape Town to see Dr Galloway who did a follow up on the procedure which he carried out on Endinako's eyes in May. The doctor was very pleased with the progress. Everything was going well but it could take Endinako up to a year for his brain to adjust to the change.



Above: Endinako's follow up appointment in Cape Town.

Whilst in Cape Town I used the opportunity to pick up our tap shoes which we had ordered from Ballet World in May. We have allocated the R5000 which we have been promised by the Ashton winery and Montagu Ashton Tourism to help purchase 12 brand new tap shoes. On Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> we did a shoe fitting. Some were a little tight and some a little loose, only two pairs needed to be replaced as they were far too big. A big thank you to Ballet World who organized to courier shoes up to us within days of the fitting. I must also mention that Ballet World has been very kind to donate two large boxes of satin ballet shoes. It's amazing and we hope to give everyone a pair so that they can experience what it is like to wear ballet shoes. The shoes are all pink, but we can dye them for the boys. A very big thank you to Ballet World, we are blown away by your generosity.



Above: It's a cold winter outside with lots of rain but inside our students are rehearsing their dances for the festival whilst others are receiving both tap and satin ballet shoes.



DSA performed 2 pieces to a large crowd of children and youth from the surrounding area. RAM also provided food for those attending and for the performers.

The month of June is always an important month for DSA and those who work with the youth of our country. This month we celebrate Youth Day on June the 16<sup>th</sup>. DSA was asked to submit 2 videos for the Langeberg Youth Day 2023 Showcase. This year the showcase included performances by Dancescape South Africa, New Generation Arts Development Studio, Ashton School of Dancing, and the Zolani Youth Choir.

Once again it was a pleasure to be a part of this showcase. On June the 16<sup>th</sup> we did a live performance at Ashbury Primary School. Joined on this day by the Zolani Youth Choir and arranged by our good friend Carol Bruton who runs Rescue Among Many (RAM).

Due to high levels of rain fall our second visit to McGregor this month had to be cancelled on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. The Breede River swelled significantly, and bridges and roads had to be closed. We have over the course of the year been enjoying the collaboration between DSA and the First Step Ballet. The students will now be taking a break due to school holidays.

Below, the closing collage featuring this year's Youth Day Celebration performance organized by Rescue Among Many (RAM). A large group of our youth arrived to watch the performance. We were all very fortunate on the day as it was the only day in that week were little, or no rain was forecast.

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)

