

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) May 2024 Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in May of 2024 (2.00pm – 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 continued his teaching every afternoon of the week. We managed to put the dance mats back down again after some repairs a few weeks ago. I wanted to observe if the wood floor would react again and fortunately it didn't. With the dance mats back down it's an ideal dance studio, but we will monitor it to see if any of the waves should return to the plywood boards underneath it.

The Dancescape South Africa board met on the 8th of May 2024 to have it Annual General Meeting for the 2025 financial year. Much was discussed, including our new Financial Policy. The board was happy with how things had progressed over the last year and satisfied with the financial statement produced by Barnard Chartered Accountants. Guided by the Financial Policy we discussed the budget for the rest of the year. We also spoke about various events planned.

In the early hours of Monday the 13th of May, there was yet another break-in. This time it was into the workshop area of the Zolani Hope Centre where the church is now. The worst part of all of this is that Secunet, the company that monitors the alarm system, only arrived an hour later. Neither Fanie nor I were pleased about this and have both spoken to Secunet. They have assured us that it won't happen again. Fanie, who is a 75-year-old man arrived on the scene about 20 minutes after the alarm was triggered and managed to scare of a man who he didn't recognize as it was dark. This person was in the process of stealing the toilet in the workshop/church. Damage was also sustained to the doors and locks of the studio. A few days later I fixed this and installed new locks.

On the 14th of May I had a scheduled meeting with Raymond Dreyers from the Department of Culture and Sport (DCAS). This had been planned more than a week prior. Unfortunately, nobody arrived, and we have no idea what happened to Raymond and the meeting.



Above and on next page: Students enjoying the three-course meal at a special dinner evening event.



On the 17th of May a rather wonderful event took place. Carol Bruton from Rescue Among Manny (RAM) planned an amazing evening specially for the DSA students and the members of the Zolani Youth Choir. It was held at the Ashton Winery in Ashton. The kids from both groups were bussed in and had no idea what to expect. Carol explained that at most events where we had performed the kids would pitch up, perform to an audience who were most likely enjoying a sumptuous feast and then leave to be transported home. She wanted to reverse this situation by having the kids enjoy a delicious three course meal sitting around tableclothed tables decorated with fine crockery and cutlery, and fine glasses. This made each of our students feel very special. On that night the DSA dancers performed two pieces and we also enjoyed the exceptional sounds of the choir. As part of the evening there was a prize giving where 10 chosen individuals from each discipline were honored with a certificate of achievement. All in all, it was a huge success and we all left full of fine food and inspiration. We would like to thank Carol and RAM for taking the time and effort to make such a lovely event happen. We would also like to encourage this to be a yearly function. Many thanks Carol.

On Saturday's the 4th and 25th of May some of our senior dancers travelled again to McGregor in a collaboration with Mary Silver who is the director of the First Step Ballet School. Nqaba traveled with our students and also taught. Most of our dancers have been kitted out with a DSA tracksuit and look like a professional team. This helps to give them a sense of pride about their dance school.

Nqaba Mafilika, our resident teacher's, report:

I would like to thank miss Patricia, Mitya's mom and Dancescape students for putting up a wonderful performance at the long table event in Montagu on the 27/04/2024. We started the month with fabulous contemporary class from Chuma Mathiso, a former Dancescape student now at Jazzart Dance Theatre. It is inspiring for our students to have our ex-students coming to give back.

The student's numbers have been on and off because of their school exams but we still have huge turnout and get on with our daily classes and repertoire. Our students were treated to a wonderful dinner at the Ashton winery organized by Mr Mvunge and 10 of the students were honored with certificates of achievement and this was good for the students as some have never had the experience of having a three-course meal. They did well with the performance, and I was pleased. Slow developments in the studio have been taking place but still waiting for running water and working toilets, lights for changing rooms and it sickening to learn that there are hooligans who are trying to break into the building. I was

appalled to get to the studio one day to find that after a Mother's Day event the studio was left dirty, but I spoke with Fannie about this and hope that they can clean the place. The McGregor classes are also turning out nicely.



Above: Chuma Mathiso teaching the DSA students

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)