

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) October 2021 Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes for most of October 2021 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions, however due to the Covid 19 pandemic our classes are restricted in numbers attending. We observe the relevant protocols such as screening the students before class, observing body temperature, sanitizing hands and observing social distancing. Our top priority is to facilitate classes in a safe environment for both teacher and learners. Classes resumed this month on Monday the 11th of October after pupils returned from school holidays.

The Dancescape South Africa Directors Report:

In the first week of October the studio was closed due to government school also being closed for holidays. Classes resumed at the Hope Centre on the 11th of October. Lihle Mfene once again joined us for more guest teaching and work on a piece which we are going to perform on the 11th of November in Montagu. Nqaba and Lihle continued to share their teaching at the studio.



Above: Lihle Mfene, our guest teacher, teaching the DSA students

Earlier in the month our numbers of those attending classes at the studio dropped a little, We think it was because the students are preparing for their yearend exams. However later in the month, Nqaba our resident teacher, sent me this short message, "The students have

been working extremely hard and the classes have started to increase in numbers as more students have started to come back for their dance lessons. We have about 50 altogether. Lihle made another come back and is busy rehearsing his new choreography called 'Indibano' which looks amazing to watch. So in all what I am most definite about is that we have a good repertoire for next year."



In my previous reported I mentioned issues that we had with the Zolani Care Trust board. We have fortunately managed to resolve them this month. The Care Trust Board had previously declined our offer to build changing rooms for the students. Fortunately I was able to meet Fanie, the manager. Some of the issues were about the paying of municipal services which had been steadily increasing through the years. We agreed upon increasing our contribution and also how DSA would be assured of being able to use the Zolani Hope Centre next year. He agreed to meet with his board to get their approval and I am happy to report that they were all in agreement signing a letter of understanding. This means that work will finally begin on building the student changing rooms and separating the existing kitchen from the dancers who will now be able to change in their respective changing rooms instead of using the kitchen. This month we were able to get some of the outer walls painted and it has made a huge difference. It has made the venue attractive and inviting. We also had some of the broken windows repaired. We are trying to get the community and those who use the Hope Centre to feel proud about their building. There is so much filth and squealer in the townships. We hope to set an example of what can be done and how a little can uplift the general environment. People don't have to spend money, they can start by simply clearing litter and rubble from their yards.



Above: The Zolani Hope Centre before the painting work began

Below: The building after the paint work had finished



Fanie at the Zolani Hope Centre has assured me that the work to build changing rooms for the students will begin in early November. Part of the work will also be to clear much of the

rubble lying around the exterior of the building. I hope to report on this in the November Report.

We hope that when Ulli Bosch, from Dance for Future, arrives for a visit in mid-November 2021 we should have most of the building work completed. Dance for Future have kindly provided the funds to do the building work and we are most grateful for their involvement to help uplift the community.

This month I spent a lot of time preparing a proposal for a grant from the National Lotteries Commission. Finally this was sent off to the commission on the 21st of October. I believe it's going to take about 155 days for it to be processed. We hope that all goes well with our application so that we can preserve the Late Fiona Sargeant's legacy and keep the Dancescape South Africa project alive for the longest time.

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)

