

Dancescape South Africa April Report 2017

Daily dance classes continued throughout April (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue AFM Church –Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging over 60 children in beginner and senior dance sessions.

We are encouraged and grateful to have received monthly support to pay our trainee teachers a stipend. At the moment we have three senior dancers who are acquiring their training in a practical way by shadowing classes and experiencing hands on training in rehearsals.

Annelize Marais has recently joined the project with the hope that she will be able to oversee classes in the future. Special thanks must be given to May Bingham our volunteer educationalist mentor who comes out twice a week to help with homework.

The Montagu Project is an ongoing study abroad program that partners young African people — specially selected for their leadership potential — Last year Lihle Mfene attended this course and met Suzi Pond. Suzi could not help but notice Lihle's dance promise during her stay in Montagu. While watching him dance it occurred to her that through her professional contacts, she might be able to fundraise and secure a place at a respected 3-week dance workshop near her home in Maine. Based on Suzi's efforts and Lihle's exceptional talent, he was granted not only acceptance but a full scholarship (room, board and tuition) during his stay at the "The Dancers Workshop" at Bates College Lewiston, Maine from June 23 to July 14, 2017. Dancescape will be having a Celebration of Dance Performance (June) before he goes! Please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOBqTtEPS3o> for his full story.



I thank Mitya Sargeant for all his effort in sorting our Lihle's visa and taking him to Cape Town for his interview and to pick up the visa.

We thank May Bingham for her input in preparing this young man for his trip.



Supporter Kyra Goede from Australia is helping us to fundraise and expose our program to dance schools in Australia. She challenged us to choreograph a dance to John Lenons Imagine (though we are using Eva Casside version) The challenge is to invite other dance schools to watch our dance and be inspired to create their version. Lihle Mfene choreographed a piece and we hope it will bring Dancescape much needed exposure.

Guest teacher Noluyanda Mqlwana had to postpone her visit but we are excited to be hosting and welcoming Kristine Elliott and three American guests from San Francisco who will be working with our children on Saturday 29 – 1 May

Our Easter holiday program was successful even though we had to cancel two days due preparations for the Easter Services taking place. Grateful thanks must be given to our American supporter Robyn Segal who collects

dance clothes and costumes and to our Municipality who supported us with Easter eggs.

Receiving Leg warmers from an English Friend



Costumes from an American friend



