

Dancescape South Africa July Report 2017

Due to school holidays no dance classes were held in the first two weeks of July, however we held holiday classes in the third week of the holidays and then continued to facilitate classes for the rest of July 2017 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue AFM Church –Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton).

During the week of holiday classes and rehearsals we were delighted to have a guest teacher. On Tuesday the 18th of July our Dancescape South Africa students were given a surprise visit by Mthuthuzeli November. Mthuthuzeli was one of Fiona's students from several years ago who was given the opportunity to study at CAPA in Cape Town and who is now working as a professional dancer in Cape Town and London, England. He grew up in Zolani and is truly a success story and we were delighted to have him give class and rehearsals. Mthuthuzeli spent most of the week with us working a new piece for the kids to add to their repertoire and also to explore some of his ideas as Tutu, as we call him, is actively involved in choreographing dance creations around the globe. Tutu thanks so much for taking time out to give back to the kids and to help our project. We hope to see you more and more in the future. We will be performing his new piece called Sparkle Baby at the upcoming Youth Arts Festival.



Another highlight of the month was attending a course held at Reddam House in Cape Town. The course entitled Progressive Ballet Training or PBT was held on the 22 July and our teacher was Robyn Segel Shifren. Robyn an ex professional ballerina and former colleague at Napac Dance Company in Durban offered Dancescape South Africa a place at the course free of charge. Dancescape South Africa was represented by Anele Bizwaphi and he did very well to keep up with a class full of professional teachers. It was an intense day but very rewarding and we learnt a lot. DSA would like to Thanks Robyn for her kindness and we hope to start teaching this method to the kids of Zolani sometime this year. We really are very grateful for the opportunity and believe that from what we have learnt we will be able to make stronger dancers for the future.







This month's focus was on preparing for the upcoming Montagu Youth Arts Festival. We have 8 pieces to perform at the Festival and every afternoon after a short class the kids have been very busy rehearsing.

On Monday the 24th of July Robyn Segel Shifren, the PBT teacher, gave us a visit. Robyn who now lives in the United States has been very active in trying to raise funds for DSA. She has been successful in getting donations of costumes and dance togs coming from all around the world. She recently managed to accumulate 75kg or 15 boxes of donated dance gear from her friends in Australia. We would like to thank you Robyn and all those who have given so very much. Thank you Robyn for all your help, you are amazing. The boxes arrived on Tuesday the 25th of July, just in time for the upcoming Youth Arts Festival.





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 Administrative Director – Dancescape South Africa)