

Dancescape South Africa October Report 2017

Daily dance classes continued throughout October 2017 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue AFM Church –Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) in the school term, engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions.

This was a tough month for Dancescape South Africa as we are all tried to come to terms with the loss of Fiona Sargeant. I had to take a short break from the managing DSA to focus on personal and legal matters and I would like to thank Annelize Engelbrecht for being on the ground with the kids and taking charge. Annelize Engelbrecht has been volunteering her time and energy to help DSA over many months of this year. However Annelize has had to deal with some of her own problems and will leave DSA at the end of October. We thank you Annelize and you are always welcome to visit and to see the progress of the kids at any time.

The first week of this month was school holidays. Some of the kids were invited to partake in workshops held in Cape Town arranged by our patron Noluyanda Mqulwana.

On the 6th of October we had a guest teacher Sannette van de Mescht. She spent the day teaching the kids stretching and body conditioning exercises and then a full ballet class. Sannette is a highly respected and accomplished teacher in Cape Town and has her own school there.

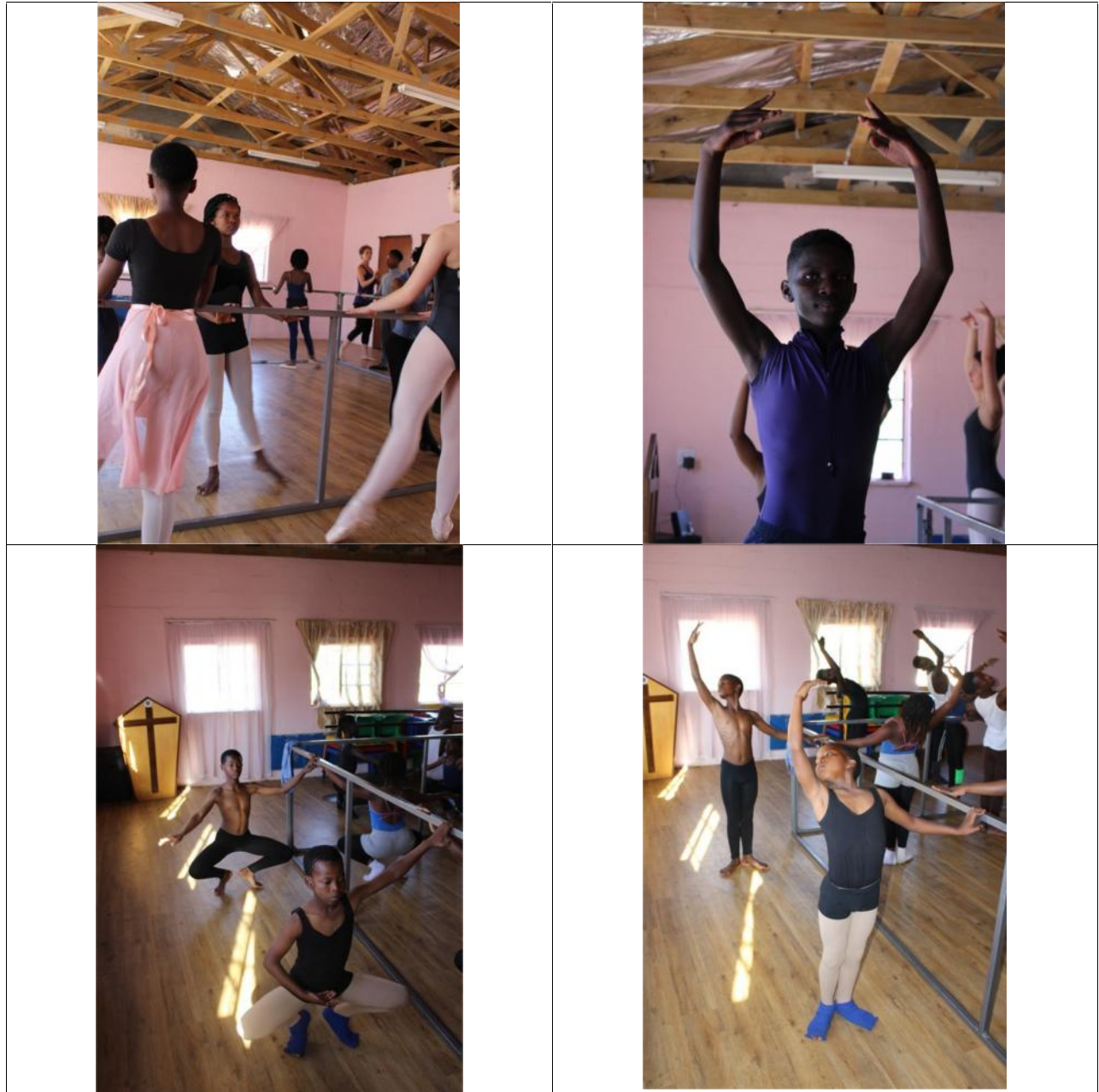
Sannette seen here below back row on the right.



Several of the senior students travelled down with Annelize to Cape Town on the 7th of October to watch a performance at the Baxter Theatre called the Baxter Dance Festival and this included many performances of young dancers based in rural areas.

For the next 2 weeks I took most of the classes and in this time the focus was on trying to consolidate what Sannette has taught the kids earlier in the month. Also I paid special attention to Lihle Mfene our most senior dancer who we were preparing for an audition with the Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) on the 21st of October. We are hoping that he will get a scholarship to train full time at CAPA from 2018. Also at this time some of the senior dancers were preparing for a performance to be held on the 4th of November. On the 21st of November Lihle and I travelled to the CAPA studios in Tokai where Lihle auditioned. I felt that he did very well and we are still waiting for a reply from CAPA regarding the scholarship.





From the 23rd of October to the 4 of November we had another guest teacher. Alfonzo Freemantle based in Johannesburg and an energetic and charismatic teacher came to visit. Alfonzo had met Fiona many years ago and was inspired by her. He felt as if he needed to give something back and to try in some way to give back to Fiona by teaching the kids. He brought with him a full range of dance styles. We started the week with ballet and slowly moved into more contemporary dance. He spent lots of time teaching the kids new choreography and a special piece dedicated to Fiona Sargeant.



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)