

Dancescape South Africa August Report 2017

Daily dance classes continued throughout August 2017 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue AFM Church –Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. The dancers had been working very hard as they prepared for the Montagu Youth Arts Festival held in the first 2 weeks of August. Dancescape South Africa has entered 8 dance pieces ranging from Ballet to contemporary and modern. We feel that the dancers did very well at the festival as out of the 8 pieces 6 received a Double Gold, the highest grade. The other 2 received golds. It was an exciting time for our dancers and a chance to show off all the hard work of the previous weeks. We would like to thank Helen Gooderson and the RAD Foundation for all their hard work managing the Youth Arts Festival.



Receiving the award for the best dance entry at this year's festival (Noel) are Asenathi Ndinisa, Lungani Mhlomi, Buhle Leeuw. Well done guys, are really are the best



Aphiwe November, Ayakhanya Masa, Phelo Ngzokuma and Chuma Mcithiso with their award for The Zolani Warriors. Congratulations guys.

On the 2nd of August Giles Duley came to visit. Giles's sister Sarah had very kindly managed to raise funds for the DSA project in June 2017. Sarah had told Giles of our plight in needing to raise funds to keep Fiona's legacy alive. Giles is a photographer living in England but working all over the world doing great work in raising awareness for humanitarian issues. When Giles arrived he told me that he was going to tell the Dancescape South Africa story with short film snippets on a Social Media platform. He would not give me much more information than that. Fortunately for us Giles had arrived at just the right moment to capture the students dancing in the Arts Festival.



It was a great honor to meet this man who had survived a landmine explosion some 6 years ago in Afghanistan. The bomb had blown off 3 of his limbs. He spent most of a year in hospital but this did not break his spirit and desire to tell the world of humanitarian issues around the globe. Giles had been drawn to our story because this is a story about HOPE. As he explained, so many stories are about human suffering, this story brings hope to the Zolani community. It takes the youth of the streets, away from drugs and violence. We thank you Giles for what you have done for us. Giles left on the 6th of August to attend to another project in Cambodia.



Elena Heatherwick with some of the Dancescape Students on location

The next person to visit our project was Elena Heatherwick. A photographer and friend of Giles, also living in England. Giles's part of the mission was near complete and Elena's job was to take some more photographs of the kids both dancing and living their lives in Zolani. She was a lovely person and took to the kids very quickly. We thank you Elena Heatherwick for all you have done to help our project

Soon to join Elena on Friday the 11 of August was Sarah Duley and another mutual friend of Fiona's Kyrie Hardyman. Both Fiona and I still had no idea of what Giles, Elena and Sarah were doing in the background to help the Dancescape Project and to keep Fiona's legacy alive. Only on Saturday the 12th of August did Sarah sit us down with a large pot of tea and explain. Giles had been in collaboration with an

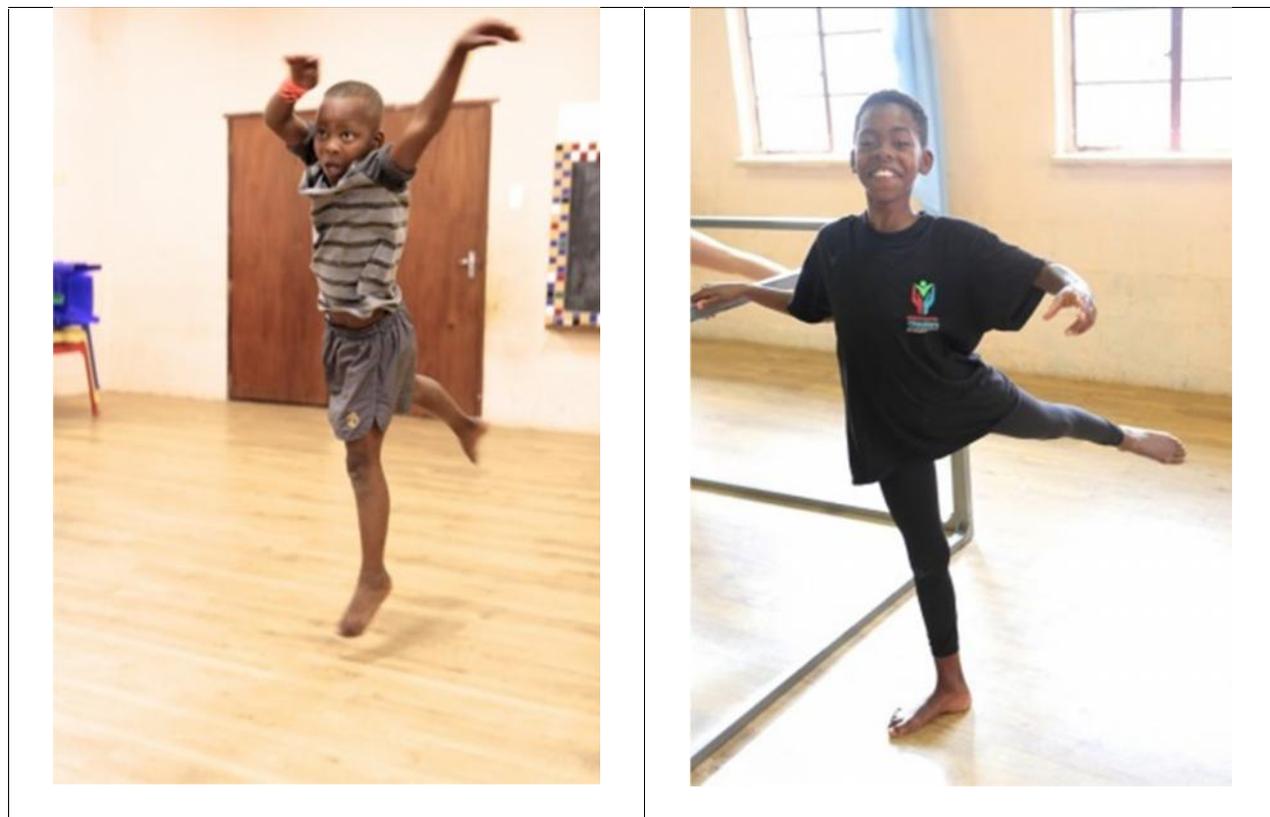
organization called G.I.S.H.W.H.E S which stands for The Greatest International Scavenger Hunt the World Has Ever Seen. This group of over 10000 members teamed up with an organization called Random Acts and Giles Duley. Every year they have this so called scavenger hunt in August. At this time they take 1 charity organization, Dancescape South Africa was this years choice, and they ask their members to make donations. This year's donation was to grant the wish of a dying women, Fiona Sargeant, to keep her legacy alive. Fiona's legacy is Dancescape South Africa. Giles, G.I.S.H.W.H.E S and Misha Collins, Elena, Sarah and all those who made donations, we thank you all for what you have done to keep Fiona's legacy alive.



Above: Kyrie Hardyman, Fiona Sargeant and Sarah Duley

On the 10th of August I drove down to pick Lihle Mfene up from the airport. Lihle had just spent 2 Months in the USA and had participated in the Bates Dance Festival in Boston. It was exciting to see him back and to hear about his travels. He had been exposed to so much and was excited and eager to begin teaching the other Dancescape Kids. We are very proud of you Lihle. You did us proud in the USA and have brought back lots of knowledge which you can give back to the young dancers. Lihle is one of our trainee teachers and since arriving back has started to do more teaching.





On a sad note I need to end this report with an update on Fiona's health. Her health has deteriorated a lot this month. Fiona is weak and frail. The cancer has been very aggressive and she is now bed bound. We continue to pray that God almighty will have mercy on her. We love you Fiona, so very much. We pray that you are not in pain and hope to make this a peaceful and happy time for you. God bless you Fiona.

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)