

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) December 2019 Report

Dancescape South Africa continues to facilitate daily dance classes during school term times at the Zolani Hope Centre in Zolani, Ashton. However, due to school holidays starting in early December 2019 DSA broke up for the summer holidays.

The Dancescape South Africa Directors Report:

This month we broke up just before the official school term ended because we wanted to focus on the piece we are going to be performing in Hamburg, Germany next year in February. The dance piece is called “Ubizo” and has been choreographed by Lihle Mfene. Ubizo means the calling and centers around Anathi, a young South African woman. She is outside her home in the village that she lives and becomes aware of a song in the distance. She thinks it is coming from inside somebody’s house. The song is getting louder and louder but she can’t find where it is coming from. Anathi realizes that it is coming from inside her head. So she begins to fight the song because it’s hurting her ears and does not want to go away. She seeks help from three traditional healers who tell her that she is meant to be a Sangoma. A Sangoma is a respected healer, who heals physical, mental, emotional and spiritual problems. The traditional healers guide her through the ceremony which finally makes her a Sangoma.



Above: Lihle explains the story behind his choreography to some of the cast member.

Apart from conducting rehearsals in the first half of the month my focus was on trying to sort all the paperwork required to apply for Schengen visas to travel in Germany. We have been invited to attend the 7th Biennale Tanzausbildung to be held in February 2020 at the Kampnagel in Hamburg, Germany. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to be a part of this event and to meet with several other organization from both around the world and Germany. The organizers of the event were able to provide our transport and other expenses whilst attending the event. We are forever grateful for all that they have done to make the journey possible.



Above and all below are pictures taken during rehearsal of "Ubizo"

"Kampnagel is one of the most outstanding and biggest art centers in Europe. It is known as a major platform for innovative performance, theatre, contemporary dance and other related arts in the international as well as local context. Kampnagel has established itself as a place, which presents side by side well-known names of the international arts scene (e.g. Peter Brook, Robert Wilson, Pina Bausch, Robert Lepage, Arianne Mnouchkine, Rosas) as well as young

unknown artists for which Kampnagel has been a starting point for their international promotion.” – a quote from our invitation letters.



The dancers who are going to be attending the Biennale are Phelo Prince Ngxukuma, Aphiwe November, Milisa Mathiso, Lutho Zwedala and Lihle Mfene. I will be accompanying the dancers and attending the Biennale as a teacher. We are off course all very excited and I believe that this is going to be a fantastic opportunity for our young dancers and they will be coming home much richer in their understanding of the art of dance in all its facets. My original intention was to send our resident teacher on this trip but as it turned out he will be attending a dance intensive teachers training week in New York hosted by the American Ballet Theatre at the same time as the Biennale.



I hope that all our students are enjoying their holiday time and that they will return to classes next year feeling ready to tackle another year of dance. A very merry and blessed Christmas to them and to all those who are reading this report. A big thank you to the staff of DSA, Nqaba Mafilika and Patricia Chimanga. Hope your festive season is truly wonderful.



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)

