

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) February 2021 Report

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) continues to facilitate daily dance classes in February (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions, however due to the Covid 19 pandemic our classes are restricted in numbers attending. We observe the relevant protocols such as screening the students before class, observing body temperature, sanitizing hands, observing social distancing and making the wearing of cloth masks mandatory. Our top priority is to facilitate classes in a safe environment for both teacher and learners.



The Dancescape South Africa Directors Report:

Our dance classes resumed on the 15th of February in line with the reopening of government school in South Africa. I was busy with preparing for this in the early part of February. We had to purchase various items including hand sanitizer and a thermometer. Dancescape South Africa also bought a new djembe drum from Drumming SA in Cape Town. This drum will no doubt be useful when we experience power outages and can't use our sound equipment.

I am very glad to report that Ulli Bösch has agreed to my proposal submitted to him and the Dance for Future (DFF) organization in January 2021. In this proposal we asked DFF for funds to purchase:

- Large mirrors for the Zolani Studio
- A curtain to be used to hide the mirror when not in use

- Dance outfits for all our students creating a unique identity for our school and all being the same colour and style.
- Some extra cash to purchase dance outfits for students who may be joining us later in the year.
- Some extra cash to do maintenance work on the studio building. (fixing windows, toilets and doors)
- A large Dancescape South Africa sign to displace on the outside wall of the studio at the Zolani Hope Centre.

DFF deposited nearly R85000 into the DSA account allowing for work to proceed. We thank you Ulli and Dance for Future Project for your help and hope to show you the results of the donation as the year progresses.



Above: Ulli Bösch with some of our students taken at one of his recent visits.

On Wednesday the 17th of February 2021 the DSA board of trustees met for the final meeting of the 2021 financial year. It was a successful meeting where many items were discussed including the proposed events planned for the year ahead and the students which DSA support in Cape Town to continue their dance training. We hope to meet again for our annual general meeting in May of 2021.

On the 20th of February 2021 the Alonzo King LINES Ballet facilitated its 2021 LINES Day Workshop via Zoom and several of our students attended the event. In fact several dance groups and individuals from historically disadvantaged communities in South Africa attended. It was a great day and I think the students learnt a lot. If the pandemic has done anything for us it

has made us explore other avenues such as Zoom meeting to share knowledge and learn together, even in the world of dance. DSA would once again like to thank Kristine Elliott for arranging these sessions.



DSA should be receiving a large batch of T-shirts ordered from a local company. These T-shirts will display our logo. They will be distributed to our students in March. However I intend to send out a letter and form for all the parents with terms and conditions to be agreed upon before their child receives their shirts. We are well aware of the fact that often time dance togs are received and not looked after or lost/stolen. These shirts are part of our uniform and need to be looked after and respected. I hope to report on this in subsequent reports. I want to follow the same procedure with the allocation of dance togs which should be arriving sometime in March.



I am glad to report that Lutho Zwedala has been accepted into the Cape Town City Ballet Pre-Professional Program. We had been anxiously waiting for this news and finally received confirmation on the 23rd of the month. DSA will continue to support him this year as he pursues his training and career with the Cape Town City Ballet. This is what he had to say:

“The week of the call backs at Cape Town City Ballet was a stressful moment for me because it was my first time in my life to be called back for a company or a School. On my first day I joined the ballet class in the morning with the company. It was difficult but I enjoyed the different technique that I was given by the teacher at CTCB. We're busy learning a new ballet choreographed for the men. I joined Mthuthuzeli November who was rehearsing “Ingoma.” Mthuthuzeli choreographed Ingoma which was first performed by ballet black In UK....I would like to thank Dancescape South Africa for their investment in me. Thank you....”



Above: Mthuthuzeli November (back to us) rehearses his ballet “Ingoma” with the Cape Town City Ballet.



The Resident Teachers Report:

Nqaba Mafilika reports:After a successful performance on the 19th December 2020 I welcome the students back this year. They are coming back in numbers with about 65 students taking daily classes at Dancescape South Africa Zolani Studio. We started on the 15th of February and still following the protocols of sanitizing, wearing masks and checking temperatures every day. As I mentioned they are coming in numbers wanting to gain confidence and to train. On the 20th we had a workshop with Alonzo King LINES Ballet from America. I lady by the name of Courtney took the ballet class and then Keelan Whitmore took the Improvisation and Lines Repertory classes. Our students were willing to learn and took every correction that was given in the workshops. The teachers were also very pleased with the numbers of students from DSA who partook in the sessions. The teachers expressed their satisfaction with the students who showed how keen they were to learn. I am happy to be giving the kids something to do, as well as getting them to move again and to strengthen their technique. We have about eight students per class.



Milisa Mathiso reports back from Cape Town:

“It’s been great but still working on zoom going back to studio on 1st of March...we have been doing African contemporary classes and they also started doing ballet. We have been doing assignments, telling a story by picking an outfit I wore at a certain event then putting it into movement then verbally through song and movement, it was a different experience for me but I learnt a lot. We also learn about anatomy and healthcare because it’s important to know the human body as a dancer. We also learn about the history of contemporary dance. Started feeling sick last week Thursday but went to a doctor yesterday and he said I have abdominal inflammation so I'm going to buy my medication today hopefully It will go down.”

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)

