

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) July 2020 Report

Dancescape South Africa continues to facilitate daily dance classes in July 2020 (2.00pm – 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 we have limited the classes to just 2 students per class. 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:

Nqaba Mafilika continued to teach throughout most of the month of July however, there was a week of severe cold and many of the parents kept their children at home. Nqaba took some time out in this first week of July and resumed his teaching from the second week. I managed to speak with Nqaba and he told that all is going very well. He explained that he had not expected the large numbers of children to arrive for class. Clearly the kids are desperate to attend activities and events as schools were not open to all the children and eventually later in the month of July closed due to pressure from parents and teacher unions in the country. Nqaba went on to reassure me that he had remained firm and followed the rules which we had set down regarding teaching during this stage of the pandemic. That is to restrict class attendance to just 2 pupils, a trainee teacher and a head teacher. Each attending student was screened before class checking body temperature and sanitizing hands. They had to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Furthermore nobody was allowed to watch classes. Nqaba also added that he was getting to know each one of the students at a much more personal level. He explained that the students also we beginning to understand more of what the disciple of dance expected of them, an eye opener for all attending. "They are learning a lot and it's good for them" he said.



I asked Nqaba about his personal experience of the Covid 19 pandemic. He told me that he did not personally know any of the people who had succumbed to the disease in the area but knew of them. There were as far as he knew about 3 deaths and he was aware of roughly 11 people who were active cases of which most had recovered. One of the pupil's parents had contracted the virus and that child had to go into isolation. Nqaba agrees that most people are taking the virus seriously and following the necessary precautions. We spoke about the current situation of schools closing for a second time this year and Nqaba commented that perhaps it was a good thing as we approached the peak of the infections and I agreed suggesting that it would be better to open the schools later in the month of August as was planned by the Government.



I am very happy that Nqaba has persevered with his teaching and as I explained in an earlier report, we are trying to make lemonade out of lemons. Trying to make the best we can from a bad situation. Nqaba is getting to know the students on a far more personal level and therefore able to communicate and teach them on a better level. The students are learning much more than what they would in a large group class situation. The question is how we are going to progress from here and at what rate we are going to increase capacity of the classes? Also when we will initiate these changes obviously dictated by the levels of covid 19 in the community.



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)