

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) February 2019 Report

Dancescape South Africa continues to facilitate daily dance classes in June 2019 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. We also continued our dance classes in Ashbury at the Ashbury Civic Centre in collaboration with the RAD Foundation.

The Dancescape South Africa Directors Report:

This was a short month for DSA as the schools broke up on the 14th of June and will only reopen in the second week of July. Class attendance increased with students returning after their mid-year school exams. However much work has yet to be done in preparation for the Montagu Youth Arts Festival coming up in August of this year.

On the 10th of June I drove Thimna Ndwe down to have her interview at the American Consort in Cape Town. She had to conduct an interview as part of her application for a visa to travel to the USA. We are hoping that Thimna can spend the rest of the year studying dance in the San Francisco area under the watchful eye of Kristine Elliott who has made this trip possible. We were delighted to be told that her visa application was approved and she will be traveling to the United States in July of this year. We wish you the very best, Thimna, and hope that you will gain from your time spent in America.



Above: Thimna Ndwe enjoying the beach before her visa interview.

After returning from Cape Town the rest of the week was spent preparing for the Annual Youth Day Celebrations. This year's performance was held on Saturday the 15th of June at the Robertson Town Hall. DSA performed two pieces that afternoon alongside a jam packed selection of other local performing artists.



Above: Performing the Trish Trash Polka.

Below: Scenes from the Peasant Pas de Duex



Our two young stars that traveled to New York in May were well featured in the afternoons performance. Both Chuma Mathiso and Aphiwe November danced with Osiphayo Peters in the Trish Trash Polka and then Chuma partnered Sibubalo November in the Peasant Pas De Duex. It was a great success but did have it challenges. The stage had a defined rake to it and it was small. However the dancers adapted reasonably well to this especially as they were not able to even rehearse on the stage before the performance. It was wonderful to be a part of the variety show and for many of our dancers to see others performing. We would like to thank Helen

Gooderson from the RAD foundation and the Langeberg Municipality for making the Youth Day Celebration event possible.



Above: Some of the dancer who attended the Youth Day Celebration performance this year.

About a week later several of our dancers travelled to the Cape Town Artscape Opera House. The Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) and the Cape Town City Ballet had collaborated to perform in a production called “Amaranth” I managed to arrange 16 tickets for DSA to watch the performance on Sunday the 23rd of June. We would like to thank Haley and CAPA for the opportunity to watch this amazing production. For many of our group it was the first time to see a live performance at Artscape. The program began with a George Balanchine ballet called “Serenade,” superbly performed to music by Tchaikovsky. The second part of the triple bill was a Frank Staff ballet called “Transfigured Night”. This being very different to the earlier Balanchine piece as it was much more of a drama ballet. Finally we were all blown away by a truly modern work by Christopher L. Huggins called “Enemy at the gate” We were all amazed at the technical demands required. The last piece was especially exciting for our young dancers as both Lihle Mfene and Lutho Zwedala, both from DSA, were performing. We all agreed that they were outstanding.



Above: At the Artscape Opera House before the show

Below: Our group with Christopher L. Huggins, Lihle Mfene and Lutho Zwedala



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)

