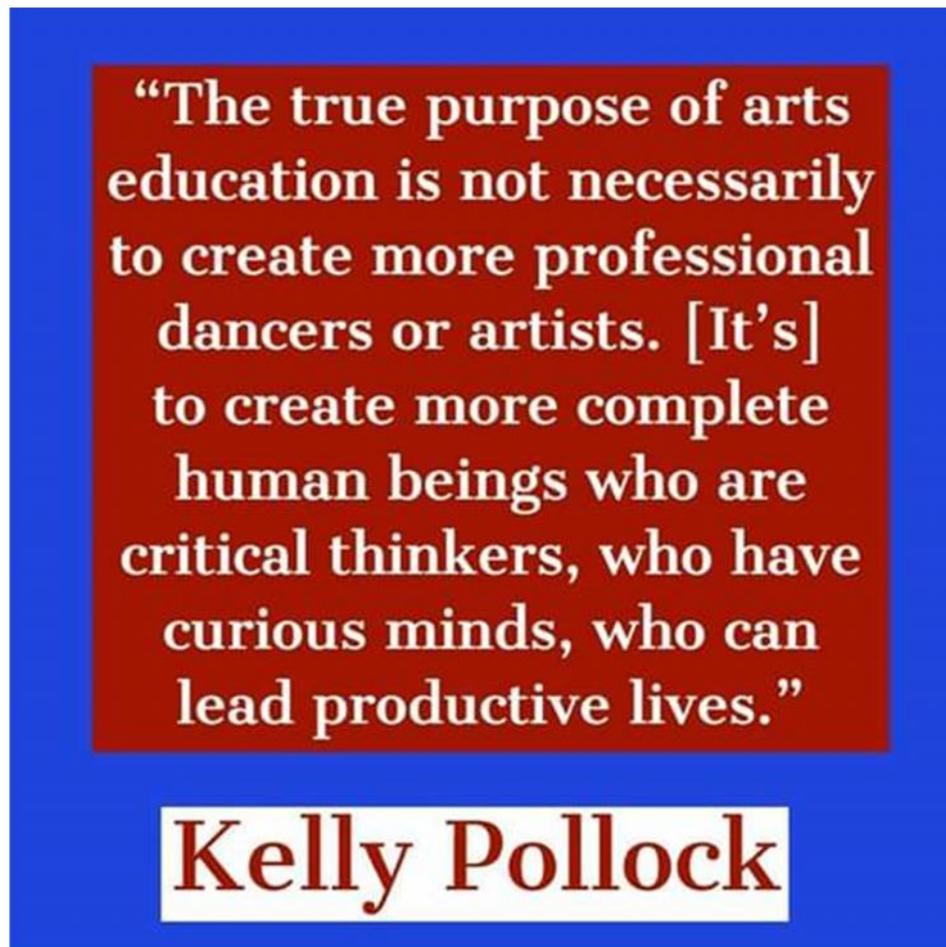


## Dancescape South Africa (DSA) October 2018 Report

Daily dance classes continued throughout the month of October 2018 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue Zolani Hope Centre – Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. We continue to facilitating dance classes in Ashbury at the Ashbury Civic Centre initiated and in collaboration with the RAD Foundation.

Earlier this month Mareletta van Zyl Munday who is the treasurer on our board of trustees and who is also actively working on our behalf with the Montagu-Ashton Tourism board sent me this amazing quote below.



### Alfonzo Freemantle was this months guest teacher:

In early October Alfonzo Freemantle came to guest teach for a week. He worked with his usual intensity and choreographed several short pieces which we plan to perform soon. Many of our senior students were away at this time but it gave an opportunity for our less experienced dancers to shine.



*Above and below: Alfonzo Freemantle at work with the DSA students*



### **Thimna Ndwe teaches in Cape Town:**

At the time of Alfonzo's visit Thimna, who is one of our trainee teachers, travelled to Cape Town Gugulethu to teach at the Gugulethu Arts and Leadership project for that week. These students were preparing for a performance at the Baxter Theatre later in the week. Thimna told me that the students worked in only contemporary and African styles of dance and she taught ballet classes to the group. She was mentored during her stay by Olwethu Katase who is a student of Kristine Elliot. She also managed to attend a performance of dance at the Artscape Theatre.

### **Three Dancescape South Africa dancers perform for Karen Butler in Cape Town:**

Karen Butler has over the last few months been working with Ayakhanya Mase, Anele Bizwaphi and Lutho Zwedala on her school production which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October at the Bergvliet High School. Earlier in that week they were also involved with the Dances for Dancers program at the Artscape Theater. Here is what Karen had to say about the three guest dancers from DSA:

"Dear Mitya,

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for allowing your three boys to come and perform in our production, "Tale as old as time".

In June, whilst attending the George Winter school, we shared accommodation with your three boys. I had brought some of my Ballet students, 70% of whom form part my small NPO called the KDC Project. A special friendship was formed between these students.

I have been running my own ballet studio here in Cape Town for 14years, having previously worked at UCT Ballet school alongside Dianne Cheesman and Kim Day. I trained at UCT Ballet school from the age of 5yrs all the way to performing with CAPAB in many ballets.

When it came time to start preparations for our Biennial production, we needed more boys to be able to do some of the ballroom work and pas de deux. My KDC students encouraged me to contact you.

In the beginning of preparations, we organized for the boys to come on weekends for rehearsals. To the Pointe School of Ballet covered the cost of transporting the boys to and from Cape Town.

Weekends were spent rehearsing for "Tale as old as time", as well as "Dancers for Dancers". Dancers for Dancers, a fundraiser for Cape Town City Ballet, was scheduled for the Tuesday before our production.

During the school holidays, the boys came and stayed at my house. One of our ballet parents loaned us their family tent, which was then erected in my garden for the school holidays and the week of the show. From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, the senior students worked every day at our dance studios.

They were involved in the group dances as well as each having a solo part - Lutho was “Lumiere”, the candlestick, Anele was “Maurice”, Belle’s father, and Aya was “Cogsworth”, the clock. The overall production included Ballet, Contemporary and various ballroom styles (Latin, Salsa, Bollywood and Tango).

The week of 13<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October the boys returned to stay at our house. They had stage rehearsals on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for the “Tale as old as time” production. On Monday 15<sup>th</sup>, they had their stage rehearsal for Dancers for dancers. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> they had a dress rehearsal at 15:00pm, followed by the performance at Artscape Opera House. The dance piece they were involved in was called “About time” – a contemporary piece choreographed especially for “Dancers for dancers.”

Our production, “Tale as old as Time” consisted of 3 shows – Friday night, Saturday matinee and Saturday afternoon. This was held at Bergvliet High school, just up the road from my house. For each performance we had big audiences. The three boys, together with our senior boys and girls, were absolutely fantastic, and received standing ovations for their efforts.

It has been an incredibly rewarding collaboration and an absolute privilege to work with such enthusiastic, talented students.

On Sunday we had a farewell lunch braai at my house – Lutho, Anele and Aya, together with our senior KDC students. It was very sad saying goodbye after such an incredible time together. As soon as our dvd and photos are ready I will send them your way.

I hope to collaborate again with Dancescape SA in the future.

Many thanks for an incredible teaching experience!

Kindest regards,

Karen Butler

Director of To the Pointe school of ballet

Head of KDC Project”

**Thank you Karen for inviting our boys to perform in your production. I am sure that we can collaborate sometime again in the future.**

**Lutho Zwedala auditions for CAPA and Three of our senior girls receive pointe shoes.**

On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October we started out very early from Zolani to get Lutho Zwedala to his audition at the Cape Academy of Performing Arts. He spent most of the day doing various classes and only finished at 3pm that afternoon. The audition was closed to the public. Milisa Mathiso, Analo Mafuya and Sibabalo November joined us on this trip to Cape Town. After dropping Lutho off at the CAPA school in Tokai I drove the girls to Ballet World in Rosebank. They were treated like professional dancers and spent about 2 hours fitting pointe shoes. DSA would like to say a massive thank you to Louise Kent and her staff for such wonderful service and for donating the shoes so freely to our dancers. We are most grateful. It is wonderful to see some of our dancers starting the magical journey of dancing on pointe. Thanks again Ballet World.







**Dancescape South Africa performs for the elderly in Montagu:**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October DSA was invited to perform at a function held for the elderly at the NG Kerk Hall. It was a privilege and pleasure to dance for the residence of Huis Uitvlucht. We chose to dance just one piece from our repertoire called "Are You Ready." We were warmly received and the audience enjoyed the performance. Thank you Huis Uitvlucht for the invitation.





**Lihle Mfene reports from CAPA in Cape Town:**

Good day teacher Mitya hope everything is good with you. This month has been really interesting where we had to work on the exercises we're going to do this term for our end of year exams and our own choreographies. The teacher still need to finish their choreographies, and yesterday 24th October was my first exam day and we started with contemporary, it was amazing, i can't wait to do the rest of my exams. We're also doing monologues from drama, and

I can't wait to do my end of year performance which will start on the 6th of December, and Thanks to Dancescape SA for your personal investment in me, without Dancescape 's help I wouldn't have had this beautiful opportunity to be at CAPA.



*Above: Lihle Mfene just outside the CAPA Studios.*

*(DSA is supporting Lihle Mfene with his living, accommodation and transport cost as he studies with the Cape Academy of Performing arts in Cape Town. Through donations received we are able to provide this support. Lihle is in his first year of a three year course)*

**Patricia Chimanga continues her work as our Public Relations Officer:**

Patricia has been working for Dancescape South Africa for 2 months now. I asked her to update me on her progress:

“Since I have started to work for DSA I and the DSA resident teachers, Manie and Farouk Irving, have noticed a big change. Over the last 2 months I have been speaking with the parents and now the kids are coming to class, and coming to class on time. We also are generating a lot more interest in the community, when I walk around the township of Zolani I am able to show the video clips of our work and more and more people want to join. However sometimes I have had problems, for example when I visit the parents sometimes they are drunk and they chase

me away but I don't lose hope and I go back when they want to talk. They want me to send them the movie clips because they like it and want to send their kids to class. "

**Our resident teachers report:**

Our kids have had a very intense two weeks working with Alfonso Freemantle who choreographed a few pieces for them. The senior boys Lutho, Anele and Aya was in Cape Town performing with To the Pointe ballet school and could not be here for those two weeks, they had a great time there and the teacher's there were all very impressed with them and they learnt a lot, gained more experience working and performing with them. The younger boys of Dancescape got more time to work with the guest teacher and we were very impressed with the way they handled the pressure of being in front and trying to please the choreographer. We also had a performance on Monday the 22nd of October at the NG Kerk hall in Montagu, they only did one piece and the audience enjoyed it thoroughly.

Our new students are working well and they are learning fast. We are now working on a performance that may be happening on the 8th of December that will be ending off our year, so we will be working hard from now till then and also have to consider the end of year school exams that is happening soon, it has been a year of hard work and hope to finish off with a great show.

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)

