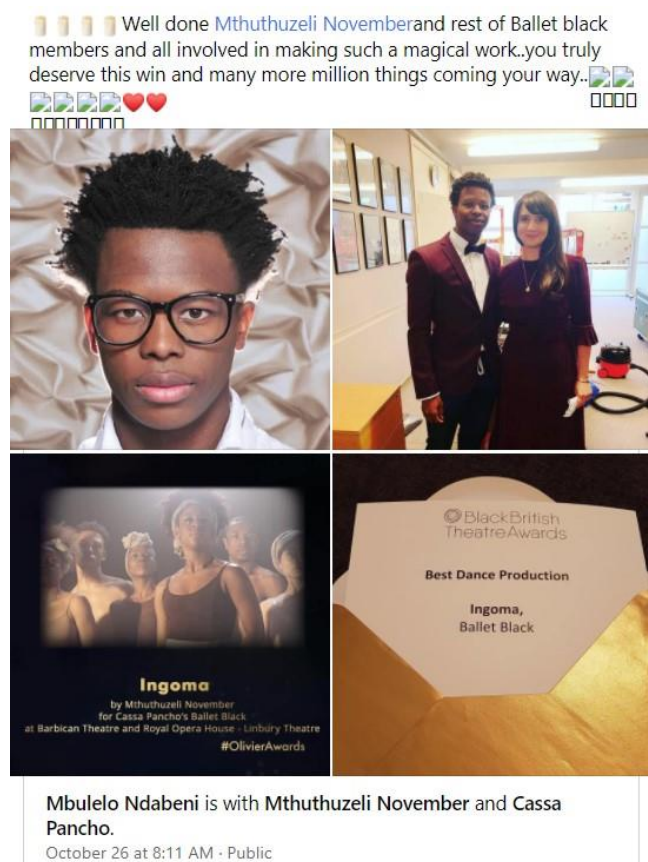


Dancescape South Africa (DSA) October 2019 Report

Dancescape South Africa continues to facilitate daily dance classes in October 2020 (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 we have limited the classes to just 5 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:

This month I am delighted to report that one of the late Fiona Sargeant’s first pupils, here in Zolani, has been honored with an internationally acclaimed award. The prestigious Olivier Awards were held in the UK on the 25th of October. These awards are presented to artists across a wide variety of performing arts disciplines. Mthuthuzeli November received the award after being nominated in the Best New Dance Production category. His dance piece entitled “Ingoma” performed by the Ballet Black dance company received top honors.



The Late Fiona Sargeant would have been so proud of his achievement, as we are here in South Africa. She did all she could to ensure that Mthuthuzeli and his brother we able to study at the Cape Academy of Performing Arts in Cape Town. We send Mthuthuzeli our most sincere congratulation and wish him all the success in the future.



Cassa Pancho is with **Mthuthuzeli November**.

October 26 at 3:06 AM · Friends



The glamour of a pandemic awards ceremony! Huge congratulations and thanks to the man of the moment, choreographer Mthuthuzeli November, the BB dancers who painstakingly researched, honed and danced the hell out of their roles, David Plater for the stunning lighting, Peter Johnson for his evocative score, Yann Seabra for the wonderful designs, Asisipho Malunga for the beautiful poetry, the Barbican for their incredible support, Hannah Gibbs, Richard Bolton and Kelly Quintyne... [See More](#)



OLIVIER AWARDS

Ingoma by Mthuthuzeli November
Winner *Best new dance production*





Technology and in particular Zoom keeps playing an important role this month. Kristine Elliott from the Gugulethu Ballet Project has managed to provide master classes with Adjil Cissoko from the Lines Ballet once again using Zoom. Adjil had seen the two boys from Zolani, Chuma and Aphiwe, when they were involved in the Lines Summer Intensive program earlier this year as reported in previously. Adjil contacted Kristine about teaching the boys and this month, on each Saturday afternoon, there were classes be held using the Zoom application. A baby class at 4 and then the senior dancers at 5pm. The classes have been very productive and inspiring. I am delighted that at this time of the Covid Pandemic we have found a way to build bridges across vast oceans and to continue to develop our passion for dance.

After postponing our annual general meeting because of the Covid 19 pandemic we were now able to have it on the 14th of October 2020. It was a very productive AGM and all agreed that Dancescape South Africa had indeed had a very successful 2020 year. Two international excursions to both New York and Hamburg Germany reflected a most productive year. Our Chairperson, Sandra Reichert was pleased with the year and Mareletta Munday endorsed the financials. Now just to focus on the current year with it challenges in particular the global pandemic.

The Resident Teachers, Nqaba Mafilika's, report:

With respect of being in level 1 of the corona virus in South Africa, Dancescape is still continuing with their daily dance classes. Five months down the line we at last started to increase the capacity of learners in class taking five students per group for 45 minutes.

The dancers have been showing a big interest coming in numbers attending two classes a week for training. We have about 67 students attending these classes every week. They growing physically, mentally and improving their technique which sees them gain fitness.



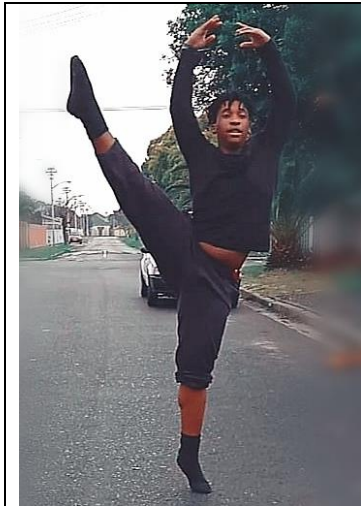
Above: Some of the senior dancers (left) and the juniors attending classes (right)

Below: Plie and jump, junior dancers in class with Nqaba Mafilika



On Saturdays, we have been fortunate to have about 15 Dancescape students working on zoom/virtual online classes with Kristine Elliott(sponsor/donor at Dancescape, Adji (company dancer at Alonzo King Lines in America) and myself facilitating these classes. These classes are at least a way of exposing the student’s abilities and gaining experience on the international level.

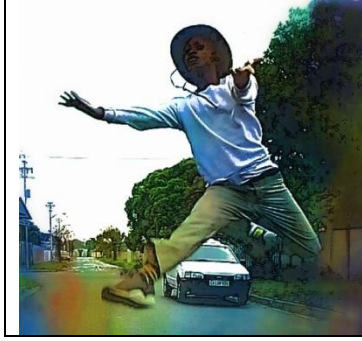
Lihle Mfene, Lutho Zwedala and Milisa Mathiso report back from Cape Town:



Lihle Mfene reported back that it had been a stressful month because he had to do a lot in preparation of his choreography and the upcoming viewing. He had to answer questions about his chosen character and later that day the first viewing of his choreographic piece. As you may recall from the previous report their final year project was to create a piece about a well know personality and Lihle had chosen John Legend. He explained that his first viewing went well but it was stressful as dancers speak more with their bodies and he had to speak with his voice about his work instead. He reports that remembering both his own choreography as well as other and has been hard work. He is busy with a film monologue which he hopes to finish before the exams which start in early November. Jazz and contemporary dance exams as well as the theory and drama to mention a few has put a lot of pressure on these final year students but Lihle explains that he is most grateful to have been a part of the Cape Academy of Performing Arts faculty. He mentioned all those who have supported him over the years of training, his friends, and colleagues and off course the Late Fiona Sargeant who with he would not have been given any of these opportunities.

Milisa Mathiso reports, “October has been a month of choreography and rehearsals and now we go 4 days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. As we are about to start our exams I've been studying because I'm very worried as it will be my first exams at CAPA and we are starting on 3rd of November and finish on the 28th. I'm happy that I am improving with my pointe work but still must work more on the variation on pointe. We had our first viewing of choreographies yesterday, they loved the concept but I must work more on the dancer's emotions so that it can connect more with the theme. So now I'll be working on that and studying also”





Lutho Zwedala send me this message:

Hello teacher Mitya it's Lutho,

I hope you're fine. My October month was really amazing because I'm done with my variation I just need to perform it on the end of the year show and yesterday I did my viewing for my choreography it was perfect and they gave me good feedback and I helped lihle with the drumming for his choreography everything went well and now I started studying for my exams this coming November....I would like to thank Dancescape for their investment in me thank you so much..

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)