

Dancescape South Africa (DSA) September 2020 Report

Dancescape South Africa continues to facilitate daily dance classes in September 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 4 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:

Another month has come and gone with very few changes to report. Restrictions have been relaxed this month with South Africa now on level one of the lockdown. Schools have returned but follow a rotation system meaning that not all students are going to school at the same time. This has been done in an attempt to follow social distancing guidelines. Over the last month the number of new Covid 19 infections have dramatically reduced and so have the number of those who have lost their lives due to the pandemic. Early in the month we raised the number of students per class by 2 to 4 but still practicing the relevant protocols as stated above. Nqaba Mafilika continues his teaching every afternoon of the week. I noticed a notable improvement in the younger students who are starting to shine and show a solid dance technique. Nqaba tells me that he is working on some dance variations such as Le Corsaire with the older male students and has also seen improvements. Our three students attending the Cape Academy of Performing Arts course in Cape Town continue with their courses but also only attending classes every other day due to the covid pandemic restrictions. In short we continue to do what we do even in a restricted and somewhat limited way hoping that the world will find a solution to this problem soon and restore jobs especially in the performing arts. For now we have to get used to the new normal, as they call it, and adapt to the current conditions.

Nqaba Mafilika, our resident teachers report:

This past month it has been great with the kids, they have been coming in numbers. Some of the kids are clearly delighted to be back in the studio. We are also getting new kids as well. I feel as if the organization is doing good things and making a difference in the community. The kids are doing classes with me and I have seen that even after the lockdown they still have some technique and I have seen improvements.

Lihle Mfene reports back from Cape Town:

Lihle Mfene our third year student at CAPA reported back to me about all that he had been up to in September. He told me that he continues to go to school just three times a week as they

too are rotating class times due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The other days he does zoom classes but explained that it difficult as they don't have much space to move at home. He spoke briefly about his Monday class which is a class of Gyrotonics. However the following week it would be Lutho turn and so it would go on. Every year the students are expected to produce a choreographic piece. As Lihle is in his third year they were given the theme of depicting a well-known person and describing what it like being that person. The idea is to depict their chosen person's story and life experiences. Lihle had chosen the singer, John Legend. He explains that he has always had an interest in singing and will also be singing in his choreographic work. I asked Lihle about how he felt about next year, as this is his last year with the academy. He told me that he was excited by the prospects ahead. He would love to explore acting and possibly creating his own music. He reflected on the recent exams and admitted that he thought that he had not done well in them but was surprised at how well he had actually done, however he once again spoke about the difficulties of dancing with a mask. Next month I hope to feature more of the other two students who have joined Lihle at The Cape Academy of Performing Arts. (CAPA)

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)