

Dancescape South Africa January 2018 Report

Daily dance classes continued from the 17th of January 2018 (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue AFM Church –Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton, engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions.

On the 8th of January 2017 Anele Bizwapi was invited by Mary Corp of the Next step dance company in McGregor to teach and choreograph. He taught contemporary dance throughout the week and choreographed one of his own pieces called "Send". Anele is one of our trainee teachers and described the week as a good week adding that it was a good experience to teach other kids his unique style of dance and choreography.



Above: Anele here with Milissa and some of the Next Step students.

On the 13th of January I took Lihle Mfene down to his new residence in Plumstead, Cape Town. Lihle had a week to settle in to the new environment and prepare for his first day at the Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA). Lihle has been given the opportunity to study through a scholarship and thanks to our kind sponsors

Dancescape South Africa can provide the R6000 required every month for all his accommodation, travel and living expenses.



Above: Lihle Mfene (2nd on the left in back row) with the other students attending their first year at CAPA).

Lihle sent me the following report, "Good Morning Teacher Mitya. We started the week on a positive note, ballet class being the day starter followed by an incredible orientation led by Debbie Turner's PA , Haley Sundelson where we were introduced to everyone from other first year students to fourth year along with the teachers that will be playing a role in our 2018 dance calendar. The week was packed with

special classes with an acclaimed choreographer from Egypt teaching us a bit of ballet and a full contemporary class which was amazing. Debbie Turner started teaching Mthuthuzeli's piece "SUN". We also had body conditioning classes with Carmen, a residential choreographer. Of course, every day we begin our day with ballet then followed by everything else. We ended the week on Friday early, luckily. Thank you so much to Dancescape SA and your personal investment to me as this has opened what really seems like an incredible opportunity for my future. I am motivated each day to do more and be more in the CAPA institution." We wish you all the best for the year ahead Lihle. This is going to be a very exciting chapter of your life.

On the 17th of January our new teachers Farouk and Manie Irving started their work with DSA and took the daily class and rehearsal session. We are now able to pay these teachers on a permanent bases thanks to the generous donations received.





Manie teaching the young male dancers and both Manie and Farouk finishing the day with a Reverence.

This is what Farouk and Manie had to say about their first 2 weeks of teaching, "When we started on the 17th of January 2018 we started with Contemporary class, they did well but was still a bit shy, but by the end of the week they were more relaxed, we had to make sure the kids could do and understand the exercises that were set, there are a few kids that were able to do most of the steps we gave while some of them were new at all of this, we had to make sure they all understood and is able to do the exercises that was set. The kids love to dance and some show a lot of talent in the choreographic field and should be encouraged. They are all more comfortable in the classical ballet class. We feel for these few weeks that we have achieved a lot and will continue to do so. The kids showed much more affection towards us at the end of the last Friday class of this month and some even came to give us hugs."

In the same week of our classes starting up again, Aviwe November gave us a surprise visit. Aviwe was a student of Fiona Sargeant from several years ago. Through Fiona's hard work raising funds, Aviwe was able to study at CAPA under the direction of Debbie Turner. He later attended summer schools in Washington

DC, with the Washington ballet and in San Francisco with Alonzo King Lines Ballet (AKLB). He has worked with dance companies nationally and international like, Cape Dance Company (CDC), Underground Theatre, Darkroom, Jazzart Dance Company, SADTA, DOX, Donroy Productions, Figure of 8 and more." We thank you Aviwe for your time teaching and helping our kids in the first few weeks of the school term.



Above: Aviwe in performance and rehearsal.

On Monday the 26th of January the Dancescape South Africa board held its Annual General Meeting for the 2018 financial year. It was a good meeting with many important issues being discussed and resolved. At the meeting our current Chairperson Bo Gordon resigned due to increasing family commitments. We thank you Bo for your time and commitment as Chairperson of the board. Sandra Reichert is now the new DSA Chairperson. Sandra has followed Fiona Sargeant's work over the years, always full of support and has often helped in some way or other. We welcome you Sandra and hope that you will enjoy your time as chairperson.

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)