

Dancescape South Africa May 2018 Report

Daily dance classes continued throughout May 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.

This month I spent a lot of time tending to Thimna Ndwe's travel requirements. Thimna will be travelling to the USA in June to attend a 3 week summer school with the San Francisco Ballet School. We had applied for her South African passport in April and were now able to pick it up from Home Affairs in early May. Our next task was to apply for a USA visa. This would include a trip to Cape Town and an interview with Thimna at the USA consort in Tokai. This was done on Monday the 21st of May. A few days after this I received a message that the visa had been approved and we have now picked up the passport with new visa from Cape Town. We would like to once again thank Kristine Elliot for all her help and financial support in making this possible.



Above: Thimna Ndwe who has been selected to attend a summer school in San Francisco

The students in Zolani continue to work hard as they prepare for the June the 16th Youth day performance in Bonnievale. They will be performing 3 exciting pieces this

year. Manie and Farouk have been rehearsing these works every afternoon of the week and even scheduled a Saturday rehearsal.



The Irving brothers report:

We teach the students some ballet, contemporary and a bit of jazz classes every week, most of them like the modern stuff more but we know that the classical barre is what they need to build technique so we try and do a ballet barre every day and it also allows us to see if they are improving.

Mitya has given us some strengthening exercises and we have made it part of class for them so they don't start class before they have done their exercises, it is to strengthen their turnout muscles, stomach muscles and back's. We will be able to see results after they have been doing it for a whole term.

Lutho and Anele are also busy choreographing some new pieces, Lutho has almost finished his and it looks like a good piece for the repertoire. Anele is still busy working on his but also has his school work to attend to as it is now exam time.



We are working on the youth day performance that is happening on the 16th of June in Bonnivale and will perform three pieces. They are all working hard to make it a success and we want them to look their best on that day. The one piece was choreographed by Ngaba Mafikele and it is a Puntsula and most of the dancers are participating in it, lutho and Anele finished the choreography for the older students and have included our babies. One of the pieces is a combined work of Nathan and Ciara, it has the combination of Spanish, Jazz and Contemporary styles in it and is probably the most exciting pieces for all our students to be in.



We also have one older piece that was choreographed by Lutho a while ago and has been performed a few times. It is excellently choreographed to Alvin Ailey style and a gospel song called Are You Ready and almost everyone is part of this piece.

There's a lot of rehearsals and polishing to do still before we will be ready to perform these pieces, they all work hard but due to exams starting now we will have to be patient because many might not make it to classes and rehearsals at this time.

We do speak to all the kids about the importance of getting to class earlier and not to miss rehearsals so much, also to not take so long to change and to stop making a noise while we are teaching and giving corrections, because we are losing valuable time when trying to get them to focus.



Our trainee teachers are getting along well now with taking some of the class when we ask them to and they have good control of the class because there is no language barrier between them, the trainee teachers are a valuable asset to the company and they are the future of Dancescape South Africa.





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)

