



DANCESCAPE SOUTH AFRICA

Uplifting People Through Dance

Dancescape South Africa (REF: 168-724 NP)
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Artistic Director: Fiona Sargeant
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Quarterly Report for Dancescape South Africa July – September 2017

July:

Daily dance classes continued throughout July, August and September (3.00pm – 6.00pm Venue AFM Church –Mantlane Road Zolani Ashton) engaging children in beginner and senior dance sessions. We did however not facilitate classes in some of the school holiday weeks.

In July 2017 on Tuesday the 18th of July our Dancescape South Africa students we given a surprise visit by Mthuthuzeli November (below).



Mthuthuzeli was one of Fiona's Zolani students from several years ago who was given the opportunity to study at CAPA in Cape Town and who is now working as a professional dancer in Cape Town and London, England.

Tutu grew up in Zolani and is truly a success story and we were delighted to have him give class and rehearsals. Mthuthuzeli spent most of the week with us working a new piece for the kids to add to their repertoire.



Another highlight in July was attending a course held at Reddam House in Cape Town. The course entitled Progressive Ballet Training or PBT was held on the 22nd July and our teacher was Robyn Segel Shifren. Robyn an ex professional ballerina and former colleague of both Fiona and I at Napac Dance Company in Durban offered Dancescape South Africa a place at the course free of charge. Dancescape South Africa was represented by Anele Bizwaphi and he did very well to keep up with a class full of professional teachers. It was an intense day but very rewarding and we learnt a lot.



On Monday the 24th of July Robyn Segel Shifren gave us a visit. Robyn who now lives in the United States has been very active in trying to raise funds for DSA. She has been successful in getting donations of costumes and dance togs coming from all around the world. She recently managed to accumulate 75kg of donated dance gear from her friends in Australia.



August:

The dancers had been working very hard as they prepared for the Montagu Youth Arts Festival held in the first 2 weeks of August. Dancescape South Africa entered 8 dance pieces ranging from Ballet to contemporary and modern. We feel that the dancers did very well at the festival as out of the 8 pieces 6 received a Double Gold which is the highest grade. 2 of these pieces received trophies including the best

dance entry at this year's festival award. It was an exciting time for our dancers and a chance to show off all the hard work of the previous weeks.





On the 2nd of August Giles Duley came to visit. Giles's sister Sarah had very kindly managed to raise funds for the DSA project in June 2017. Sarah had told Giles of our plight in needing to raise funds to keep Fiona's legacy alive. Giles is a photographer living in England but working all over the world doing great work in raising awareness for humanitarian issues. When Giles arrived he told me that he was going to tell the Dancescape South Africa story with short film snippets on a Social Media platform. Fortunately for us Giles had arrived at just the right moment to capture the students dancing in the Arts Festival.



Giles had been drawn to our story because this is a story about HOPE. As he explained, so many stories are about human suffering, this story bring hope to the Zolani community. It takes the youth of the streets, away from drugs and violence.



Our next guest was Elena Heatherwick (above). A photographer and friend of Giles, took some more photographs of the kids both dancing and living their lives in Zolani. She was a lovely person and took to the kids very quickly.

Soon to join Elena on Friday the 11 of August was Sarah Duley and another mutual friend of Fiona's Kyrie Hardyman. Giles had been in collaboration with an organization called G.I.S.H.W.H.E S which stands for The Greatest International Scavenger Hunt the World Has Ever Seen. This group of over 10000 members teamed up with an organization called Random Acts and Giles Duley. Every year they have this so called scavenger hunt in August. At this time they take 1 charity organization and Dancescape South Africa was this years choice, and they ask their members to make donations. This year's donation was to grant the wish of a dying women, Fiona Sargeant, to keep her legacy alive. Sarah presented Fiona with the number of pledges that had been made thus far.



On the 10th of August I drove down to pick Lihle Mfene up from the airport. Lihle had just spent 2 Months in the USA and had participated in the Bates Dance Festival in Boston. It was exciting to see him back and to hear about his travels. He had been exposed to so much and was excited and eager to begin teaching the other Dancescape Kids.

September:

In September Dancescape South Africa was involved with this years Montagu Makiti festival held over the Heritage Day weekend. Our dancers performed at the Mime Time show on the 22nd of September at the Montagu Civic Centre. It was a hugely successful evening and from all reports the dancers who performed in 5 pieces throughout the night were outstanding.

In September Fiona Sargeant passed away peacefully on the 23rd of September. As many of you may know Fiona had lost her fight again cancer. The objective of Dancescape South Africa is to keep Fiona's legacy alive. Her legacy is to uplift and develop rural disadvantaged kids through dance. Fiona had planted the seed which now need to be watered, nurtured and allowed to grow. Our desire is to preserve this legacy for the longest time. She was a very special person, full of energy, love and passion for life and the dance. She will be sorely missed. We believe that she is dancing on high. Fiona's Memorial service was held on the 27th of September. The NG Kerk in Montagu was packed with people who Fiona had touched in her very wonderful and special way.

FIONA ANNE BARCLAY SARGEANT



30 June 1965 - 23 September 2017

I would like to thank Annelize Engelbrecht for managing events and classes especially after the passing of our beloved Fiona. I thank the trainee teachers Lihle, Milissa and Anele for also the teaching and help at this difficult time.

A big thank you to the DSA board members and in particular Bouwien Gordan and Liana Jansen for their love and support at this very sad time. Finally a big thank you to all who expressed their sorrow and condolences.

Thank you for reading our quarterly report (July to September 2017) Please visit our website at: <http://dancescapesouthafrica.org.za/> and follow us on social media.

Mitya Sargeant (CEO, and Administrative Director – Dancescape South Africa)