

Dancescape South Africa July 2018 Report

Daily dance classes continued from the 9th of July 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. DSA facilitated holiday classes in the last week of the school holidays. Apart from doing daily dance classes, Manie and Farouk, our resident teachers rehearsed some of the repertoire in preparation for the upcoming Montagu Youth Arts Festival to be held in August.

The Montagu Rotary Club visit the project:

On the 10th of July the Montagu Rotary Club came to visit the project. The Rotarians were interested in seeing how they could help the Dancescape South Africa project. They inspected our current premises and discussed interesting ideas on how to upgrade the building. The Rotarians also watched class. We thank the Rotary Club for their interest and suggestions and hope to hear back from them soon.



Above: The Montagu Rotarians seen here with some of our Dancescape South Africa dancers on a visit to discuss ways of helping our project in the future.

Thimna Ndwe returns from the USA:

On the 15th of July Thimna Ndwe who had been involved with a summer school dance intensive in San Francisco arrived back in South Africa. It had been a time of intense training. I asked Thimna several questions in an interview with her and this is what she had to say about her time abroad:

Mitya: What was it like flying for the first time on an airplane?

Thimna: When the plane departed from Cape Town it was like (gasp) wow. Such a big thing going into the air, wow. It was amazing. (gasp) I sat by the window and could see the towns below.

Mitya: Who did you travel with?

Thimna: I was with Olwethu and Linathi and they are from Gugulethu in Cape Town

Mitya: How did you find the program, were the people friendly?

Thimna: The people were very welcoming, The classes were good, I enjoyed the summer intensive program. We did classical ballet, barre, point class, contemporary, character and body conditioning classes.

Mitya: You spoke about point work, how did you find getting your first ballet point shoes and did you get blisters?

Thimna: At first it was easy but as time went by it got more difficult. I did not get blisters.

Mitya: How long was your day?

Thimna: We started at 9:30am and worked until 4:30 in the afternoon, with a lunch break, Monday to Saturday. When it got to Sunday I was tired.

Mitya: How did you find being in San Francisco?

Thimna: It's the best place to be with lots of opportunities.

Mitya: Did you see any professional productions?

Thimna: Yes I did, there was a professional performance at ODC, they did a contemporary program, and they are a group based in San Francisco.

Mitya: Is there anything else you want to say about the program?

Thimna: I really enjoyed the trip and saw other things from the other side which I want to share with my dance mates, teach them the difference between South Africa and the United States.

Mitya: Who were the teachers?

Thimna: I remember the director of the company, Mr Patrick Almond, Miss McHue and others.

Mitya: Did you learn a lot?

Thimna: I did because there were different classes, different teachers and styles. It's the same as Dancescape but with different styles, a typically American style.

Mitya: Could you pick up the steps quickly, did Dancescape South Africa prepare you well enough for this?

Thimna: Yes, I could and Dancescape was good preparation for this.

Mitya: Were you sad to leave, did you want to stay?

Thimna: Yes, I did want to stay (giggle)

Mitya: Finally Thimna who would you like to thank?

Thimna: Actually I would like to thank Kristine and the Gugulethu Ballet Project for giving me the opportunity to go to the other side of the world and see how things are done, also Dancescape because if I was not at Dancescape I would not have been given the opportunity. If I did not join Dancescape I would not know anything about dance and making it my career. Also want to thank Chase Everite and Annelize for the bag and other items that they gave me. In the states I stayed with Karrie who welcomed me into her house and did everything for me.

Mitya: Anything that you want to add, would you recommend this for any other kids in the class?

Thimna: It was a good experience, it opened my eyes. I would recommend this for everybody at Dancescape. What I learnt, for instance about behavior, coming to class on time and keeping quiet, attitude to teachers and that kind of stuff.

Mitya: Well those are the things that we have been trying to teach all the students at Dancescape! Thimna, thank you so much. I am so glad that you went and that Kristine Elliot made it possible for you to do so.



Thimna Ndwe seen here with Kristine Elliot and fellow dance students whilst attending the San Francisco Ballet Summer School in June and July 2018.



The Montagu Book Festival Performance:

A group of DSA dancers performed on the 27th of July at the Montagu Book Festival. They danced a piece called "Are you ready". It was great to be a part of the festival. They danced for a small but very receptive audience.





At the Montagu Book Festival we were delighted to have Lihle Mfene as our guest performer. Thank you Lihle for being a part of our production.

Mitya Sargeant wins first prize at the Montagu Book Festival 2018:

At this year's Montagu Book Festival I submitted a short story entitled "In pursuit of a dream" for the amateur writers competition. To my surprise the story received first prize in the English short story section. The Story which has been published in a book called Sprankel is based on the Dancescape South Africa work and honor's the Late Fiona Sargeant.

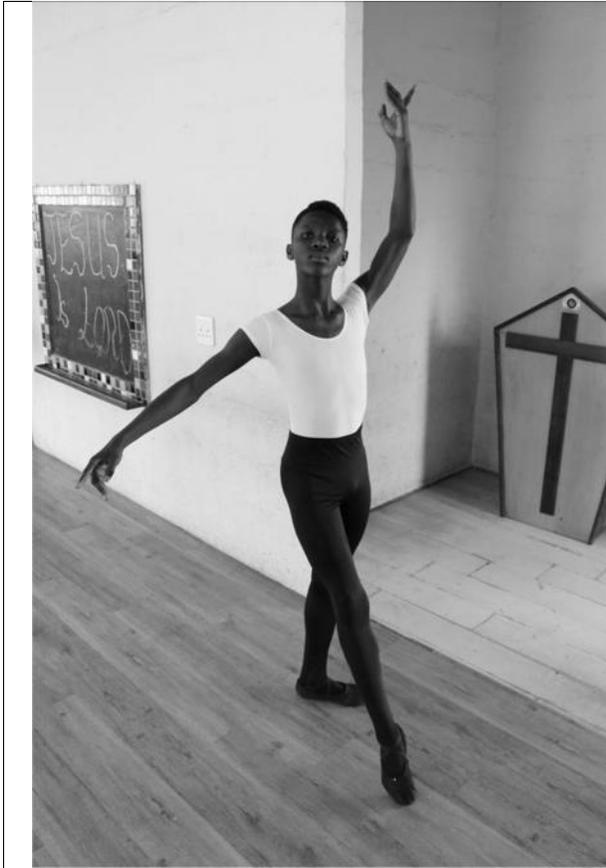
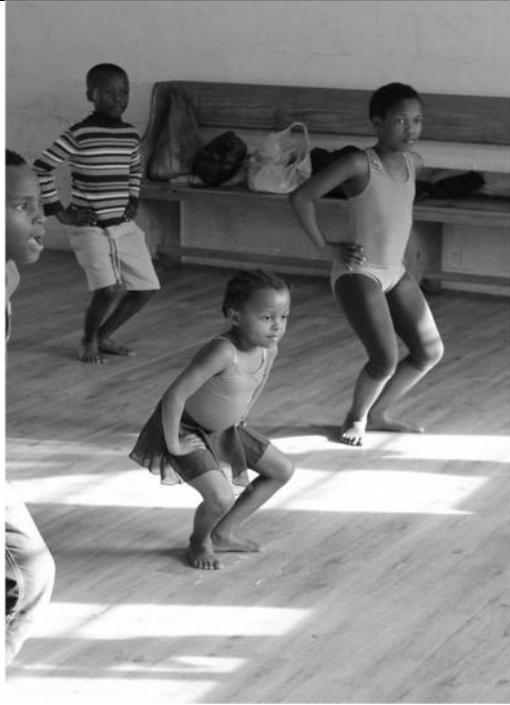


Above: Mitya Sargeant at back with the other prize winners, Mareletta Munday and guest minister.

The Dancescape South Africa resident teachers report:

This month has been a hard working month for everyone, and we had a few very inspired youngsters with us. Lutho, Anele and Aya enjoyed their time with the teacher in George who gave them some excellent classes and choreography which they had to perform. The three of them has also been invited to come and perform in the ballet Aladdin in Cape Town later on in this year. Louise Kent the owner of Ballet World the ballet clothing store in Cape Town really made our boys feel special in how she treated them. We also welcomed back Thimna Ndwe who has returned from America, she had lots of good advice for her fellow classmates and she is showing us as teachers that her trip was an inspirational one. We had a small performance at the book festival in Montagu on Friday the 27th and now we are working hard for the Montagu Arts Festival that is happening in two weeks' time.







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)