



DANCESCAPE SOUTH AFRICA

Uplifting People Through Dance

**Dancescape South Africa (REF: 168-724 NP)
Public Benefit Organization No. 930055804**

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Quarterly Report for Dancescape South Africa April - June 2018

Daily dance classes continued during school term times throughout April to June 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. Dancescape South Africa (DSA) is able, through the kind donations of several individuals and organizations to employ 2 full time resident teachers. We are also able to provide stipends for 4 trainee teachers and pay for the services of a director and administrators. Without financial support we would also be unable to tend to the day to day running costs. We thank all who have made it possible to preserve the Fiona Sargeant Legacy and to uplift the disadvantaged youth of our country through dance.

April 2018:

An amazing donation of Dance Togs:

In early April 14 large boxes arrived at the Dancescape SA residence. Manie and I were exhausted after lugging the boxes up to the DSA Wardrobe. Soon after the Easter weekend I decided to open each and every box and sort all the new items out in the wardrobe. We would like to thank Louise Kent and Ballet World for an amazing donation of mostly new dance togs. An amazing selection of shoes, leotards, skirts, tights, all in ones, it's a list too long to

mention every item. Dancescape South Africa really appreciates all that has been provided for our budding dancers. Once again a big thank you to all who contributed to filling these boxes.

Below: Some of the amazing donated dance wears for our budding dancers.



Vikram Dasgupta and Siphe November come to visit Zolani and Dancescape South Africa:

One of the most exciting things to have happen in April was the visit of Vikram Dasgupta and Siphe November. Vikram is a film maker who was asked by the Canadian National Ballet School to film a documentary about some of the students who have studied at their school. Siphe November, one of Fiona Sargeant early students, was given an opportunity to study with the Canadian National Ballet School in 2012 and graduated in 2017. He is now dancing as a professional dancer with the Canadian National Ballet in

Toronto. Vikram has been working on this documentary movie entitled "Beyond Moving" for some time now and is hoping to finish the movie soon. He has chosen the journey of Siphe November as his main theme. After the passing away of our founder Fiona Sargeant, Siphe wanted to dedicate a dance as homage to Fiona who had been such an influence on his life.



Above: Vikram and Siphe talk during a rehearsal of his homage dance to Fiona Sargeant.

Vikram's visit to South Africa and to Zolani from the 15th to the 18th of April was for the intention of filming this homage dance on the streets of Zolani. On Sunday the 15th of April Siphe rehearsed his dance at our studio in Zolani. Several of our students came to watch this world class performer in action. I then assisted Vikram in finding a perfect street location in Zolani and the homage dance was filmed at sunset at this location on the 16th of April. Most of our students were involved as they watched and danced alongside Siphe as he danced his tribute dance in memory of the late Fiona Sargeant. It was an awesome evening and Vikram was well pleased with the footage which he intends to use to finish his documentary. We were happy

to be a part of this project as it pays tribute to Fiona Sargeant and will ultimately provide exposure for Dancescape South Africa.



Above: Siphe with some of the students who watched his rehearsal.



Left: Vikram with Fiona and dancers on a previous visit in 2015

May 2018:

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 consulate 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.





June 2018:

On the 16th of June our Dancescape South Africa students performed at this years Youth Day Celebration. The Langeberg Kultuurkis Show was held at the Happy Valley Community Centre in Bonnievale and was organized by Helen Goodeson of the Rural Arts Development Foundation. It was once again a collaboration of several local performers. On this exciting Saturday afternoon our dancers enjoyed performing three pieces from our growing repertoire. Their hard work over the last month at class and rehearsals resulted in an excellent performance.



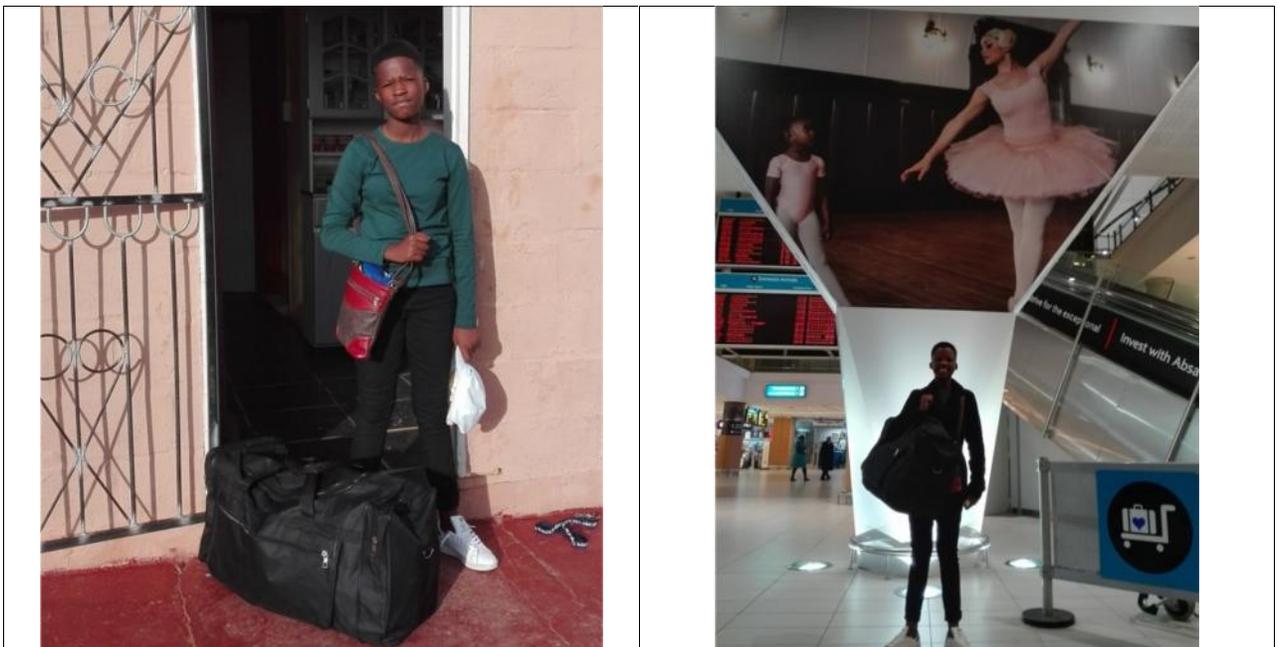
Above: Our young dancers waiting for the bus to arrive.

Below: The dancers performing at this years Youth Day Celebration Performance.





On the 17th of June I took one of our students, Thimna Ndwe, to the Cape Town International Airport. Thimna was selected by former American Ballet Theatre Ballerina Kristine Elliot to attend the San Francisco Ballet summer school held in San Francisco. Apart from ballet technique classes, Thimna will also have pas de deux, repertory, character, pantomime, contemporary and dance conditioning training. We are very proud of Thimna who attends daily classes and rehearsals at the Dancescape South Africa studio in Zolani. Through her hard work and dedication she is now able to be given an opportunity to learn from some of the best dancers in the world.



Above: Thimna Ndwe leaving home and at the airport.



Above: Thimna with Linathi from the Gugulethu ballet project (centre) and Olwethu (far left), their chaperone on this journey of a lifetime.

The Garden Route Winter School was held in George from the 25 – 28th of June 2018. Three of our male students attended the dance intensive. It was a fantastic opportunity for Ayakhanya Mase, Lutho Zwedala and Anele Bizwaphi to be trained by a faculty of national and international teachers. Their teachers for the week were: Vincent Hantam, Nicolette Loxton, Mervyn Williams, Gregg Alexander, Karen Butler and Kristy Brown. The three young men were given classes in classical, repertoire, pas de deux and allied dance styles. Mime, stage costuming, stage make-up was also offered and they were given a performance opportunity at the end of the course to showcase their hard work.



Above: Abbi Geldenhuis, Anele Bizwaphi, Ayakhanya Mase, Louse Kent and Lutho Zwedala

We are very excited to report that Lihle Mfene attended his first visit to Grahamstown Festival in late June and early July this year. Lihle Mfene is a student with the Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) and joined them on their yearly trip to Grahamstown. We are so grateful to all who made donations to DSA for allowing us to provide Lihle with his accommodation, transport and living expenses whilst studying with CAPA, and for making it possible for Lihle to be a part of the CAPA tour to the festival this year.

Finally, I was involved in an accident on the 17th of June. It happened just outside Ashton after returning from the Cape Town International Airport. Earlier that evening I had taken Thimna Ndwe to the airport to catch her flight to the USA. Soon after 10pm on that Sunday night I swerved out of the way of an oncoming car which was on my side of the road. If I had not swerved in time there could have been a fatal head on collision. The damages to our Dancescape car was a broken rear view mirror and dents on the side of our car. The driver of the other car did not stop but continued to drive away at speed from the scene of the accident.

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)