

Dancescape South Africa March 2018 Report

Daily dance classes continued throughout March 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.



"For the love of Fiona" performance:

On Saturday the 3rd of March Dancescape South Africa presented a show called "For the love of Fiona". It was a tribute to the Late Fiona Sargeant. We remembered

Fiona's passion for wanting to uplift the disadvantaged rural communities of South Africa. DSA performed 7 pieces, some new and some old. The performance was held at the KWV Building in Montagu. DSA collaborated with the Zolani Youth Choir and the Oyisa Community Program who both performed 2 of the own pieces. About 80 performers attended the evening which we had bussed in from Robertson and Zolani. Dancescape South Africa also provided them with a full meal. All the hard work of the last few weeks culminated in a stunning evening's entertainment. The dancers impressed a receptive audience and above all they enjoyed their performance.



DANCESCAPE SOUTH AFRICA Presents:

**"FOR THE
LOVE
OF
FIONA"**



Date: 3RD MARCH
Time: 5:30 PICNIC/7 PM SHOW
Venue: KWV BUILDING, MONTAGU
Cost: R100 ADULTS, R50 KIDS
Details: TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR OR
BOOKED AT MONTAGU-ASHTON TOURIST OFFICE

TEL: 023 614 2728 / 082 444 3927
MARELETTA@LOUDADVERTISING.CO.ZA





Kristine Elliot visits:

Kristine Elliot arrived on the 6th of March for her 2nd Dancescape South Africa visit. Kristine's first visit was in 2017. Kristine is not only an internationally acclaimed dancer who has worked with the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) but is a gifted teacher. She has a deep love for the kids in our townships and has her own project called the Gugulethu Ballet Project. This is what Kristine has to say about her work:

" All of these experiences and achievements have been immensely rewarding and enriching for all those involved. Teaching and mentoring underprivileged South African young people, whose talent far outweighs the opportunities they have, has been an eye-opening experience. Seeing them succeed and, in many cases, return to their communities to act as mentors for the next generation of youngsters, has been an inspirational learning process, and one that I look forward to continuing."

Kristine did not waste any time and started teaching classes and rehearsing two very challenging dance pieces. A variation from the ballet Napoli for the boys and La Bayadere Manu variation for the girls. Kristine Also brought with her dance wear made specifically for each dancer and sponsored by the famous ballerina Misty Copeland. The dancers also received a pair of ballet shoes. The dancers were now looking very good.





Ciara Baldwin and Nathan Bartman visits:

Dancescape South Africa was delighted to have Ciara and Nathan visit and workshop our students over 2 weekends in March. A big thank you to them and to Kristine Elliot who initiated their visit. Ciara Baldwin and Nathan Bartman have a company based in South Africa called CAN Creative. They interrogate real-life topics and express them through dance, physicality, music and the spoken word – always striving to create a positive message. They work with dance and musical styles ranging from African, Hip Hop to Contemporary, using them to take the students to unique and vulnerable places both physically and mentally. They give workshops and share creative tools with all age groups, challenging them physically and

mentally. They worked on 3 pieces which DSA can add to a growing repertoire and will no doubt perform sometime soon.





Thimna Ndwe has been invited to a dance training intensive in the USA:

Once again initiated by Kristine Elliot, Thimna Ndwe, one of our trainee teachers and senior students, has been invited to attend a dance training intensive in the United States of America. Thimna will attend this event over 3 weeks in June and July of this year. We are very excited for her and have started the process of applying for a passport and the necessary visa's. Thimna's hard work and dedication contributed to her being selected by Kristine Elliot for this special event.



Our resident teachers report (Farouk and Manie Irving):

We had a very exciting and productive month. On the 3rd of March we had our performance (For the love of Fiona) at the K.W.V. Building and the kids showed how much they love to perform. They really gave a great performance and made us proud. We had a few guest teachers that came to take classes and teach them some classical repertoire and a few contemporary works. Kristine from America spent 2 weeks with us and really worked hard on technique and the kids worked

hard and learned a lot from her. She shared a lot of her experience of teaching ballet and gave us some valuable information to help with improving the standard of the children. They really enjoyed the contemporary works that was brilliantly done by the couple Nathan Bartman and Ciara Baldwin who are both South African born and trained. The kids are great at doing the modern works and we are working hard on getting their classical standard up to a higher level. We are coming to the end of the first term and we do feel like we have made a difference in their lives. They now show us more respect and it is getting easier to transfer our knowledge to them. We are now just making sure they remember all they have learned for this month and hope to continue in the new term.

Lihle Mfene report:

Where do I even begin? It has been a roller coaster ride. I did not anticipate the intensity of everything here at CAPA. If I can start from this month alone, it has been rewarding for me personally to see growth in my skill and technique in a wide spectrum. Yes, challenges are still in existence as they will forever be but I am easing more to the system regarding how things are done and my comfort with the environment is leading to my gradually increasing confidence in what I do in class and the art form in general. My passion for dance is unquestionable to me and I hope to you too. I continue pushing the boundaries in all the variable platforms CAPA provides to me, from Ballet Classes, Ballet Rep, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop, Body Conditions to one of my favorite classes, Drama. It has been a of term of immense adjustment as well, I mean the amount of dance pieces we have had to learn are more than what I am used to and the injury earlier in the term was also another factor that I had to look at. I look back and I cannot wait to do it again in the next term and more of it forever. Every day, I am convinced even more that what this is for me. This is the only thing that is for me. I would like to sincerely extend my gratitude to you Mitya for your support through this period. Your presence even in our broad distance in my life means a lot. And above all, my dearest family DANCESCAPE!!!! I do not know where I would be today without them and where ever I would be, it would not be in this prestigious institution that I am embarking on my road to success. I am blessed, lucky, privileged, all of it.

Manie Irving gets his driving license.

Following on his brother's success Manie did his driving license test on the 6th of March. Now we have both our resident teachers as legal drivers and able to get to their various teaching appointments. Well done Manie. Wishing you safe driving and many miles of smiles.



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)