



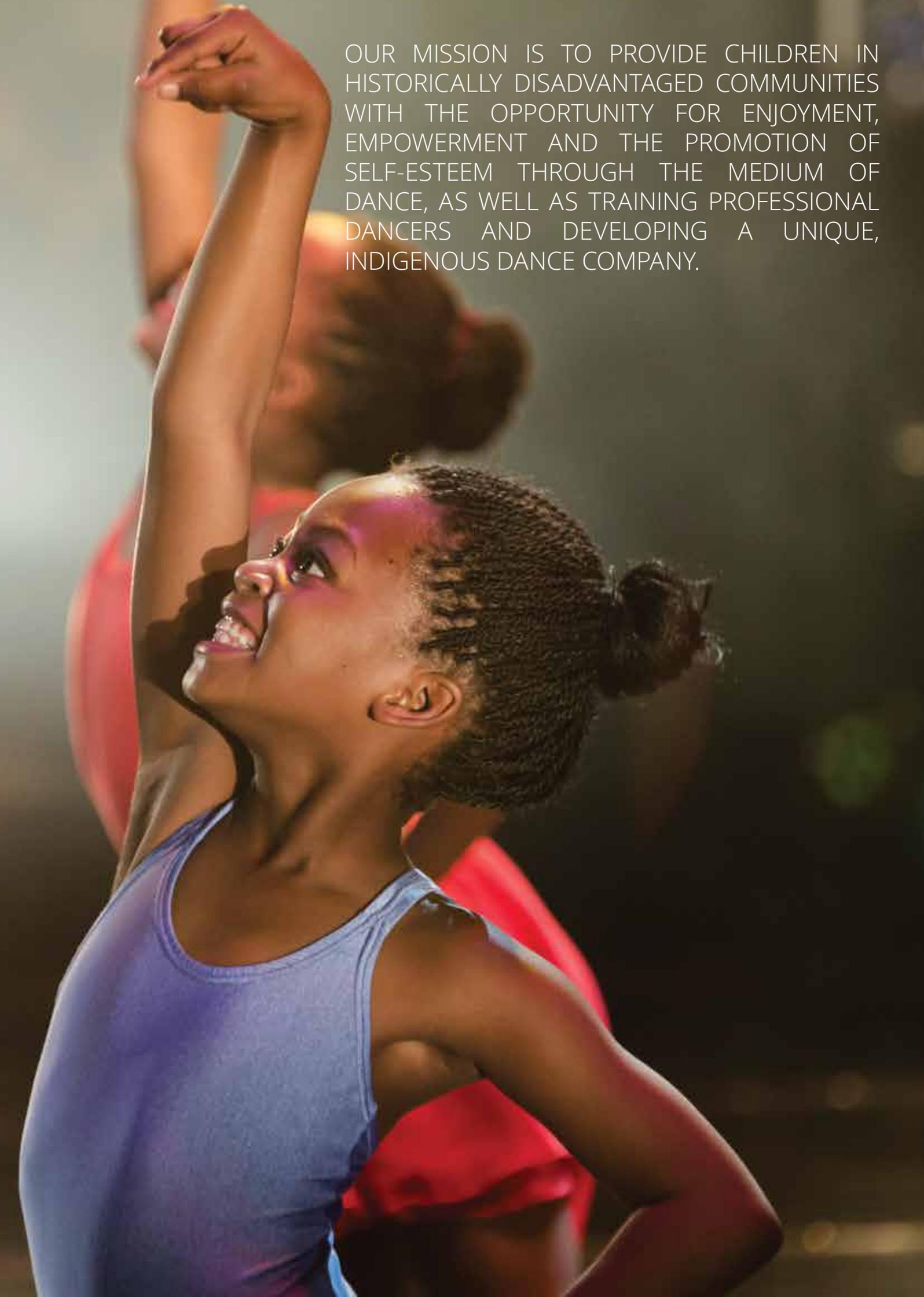
Dance  
for All



25 YEARS OF LOVING, CARING  
& SHARING

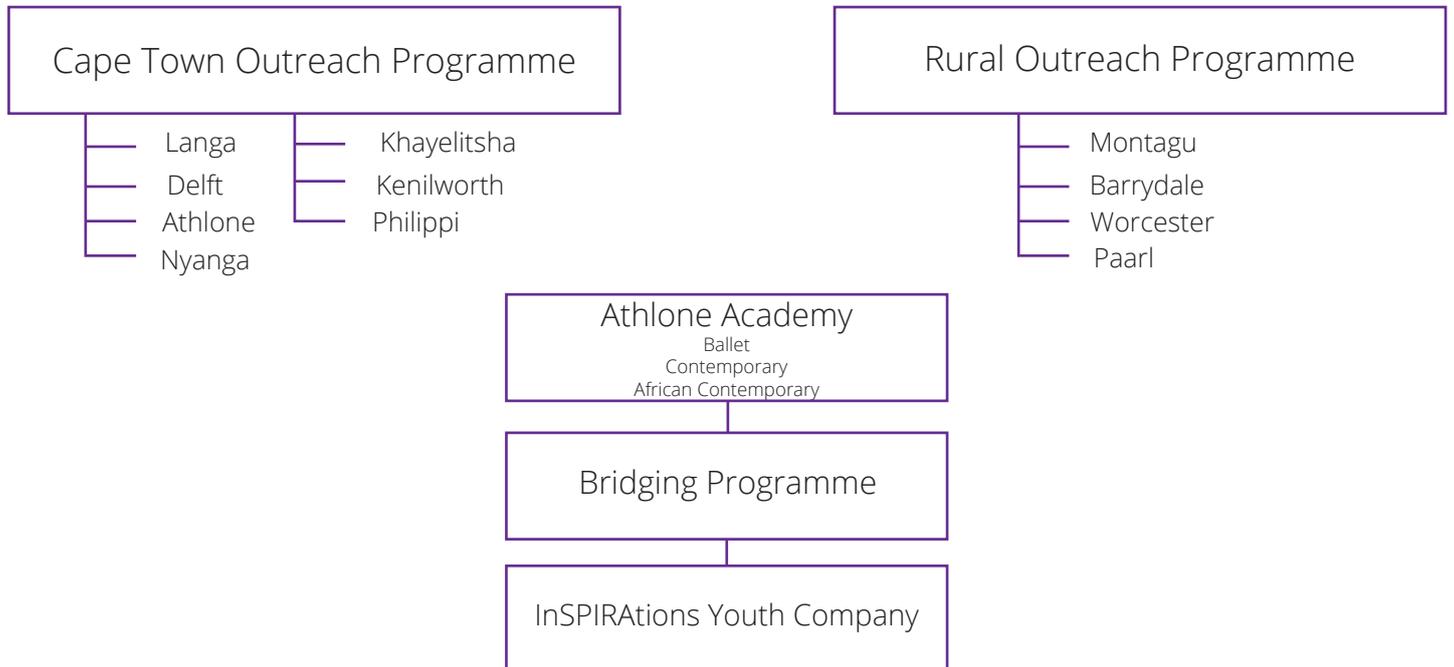


**ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**



OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE CHILDREN IN HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ENJOYMENT, EMPOWERMENT AND THE PROMOTION OF SELF-ESTEEM THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF DANCE, AS WELL AS TRAINING PROFESSIONAL DANCERS AND DEVELOPING A UNIQUE, INDIGENOUS DANCE COMPANY.

# DANCE FOR ALL TODAY



# CEO'S REPORT

PHILIP BOYD



In March 2016, at the beginning of the year under review, Dance for All (DFA) entered another exciting yet challenging year.

Allison Hendricks was appointed as DFA's new Artistic Director in January 2016 and it is wonderful to see how well she has run the artistic side of things. She has been able to express herself creatively in this key position, which is vitally important for the future of DFA.

DFA continues to rely heavily on funding and 2016 was no exception. In fact, it was possibly one of the hardest years we have had financially. Due to delayed funding, DFA lost some valuable staff members, who understandably sought employment elsewhere.

I would like to pay my respects to those staff members who stayed on during this period, and thank them for their complete commitment to the work through this very stressful time.

In July 2016, some of our Senior Ballet students had the opportunity of working with international, South African-born choreographer Terence Etheridge, who created a work on our dancers.

This year, six DFA students were chosen to attend Jazzart Dance Theatre's three-year Training Programme. What a pleasure it is to see students being able to further their training at reputable dance institutions.

A great highlight of 2016 was the rehearsal period for our 25th Anniversary Gala that was presented at Artscape Theatre on 13 August. About 150 students performed in this production, including students from our Rural Outreach Programme in Montagu and Barrydale. We were honoured to have Rev Mpho Tutu, who had recently become a Patron of DFA, in the audience that night.

On 24 August, 10 students had the opportunity of performing with University of Cape Town School of Dance students at the Baxter Concert Hall. This was on the invitation of the Director of UCT School of Dance, Gerard Samuel, and senior lecturer Lindy Raizenberg.

From 3 to 8 October, DFA staff ran a Stepping Out series of workshop classes at our studios in Athlone and hosted two groups of students from our Rural Outreach Programme in Montagu and Barrydale. This was kindly sponsored by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund and the National Arts Council.

On 20 and 21 October 2016, Artscape Audience Development Department hosted another Kunststreffers Tour to Clanwilliam. DFA took four of our senior students on this exciting tour, which exposes the performing arts to a wider audience in rural communities.

Two performances of our annual end-of-year production, Imibulelo, were held at Springfield Convent Centenary Hall in December. The work that DFA does is always a team effort, so many thanks to everyone involved for their hard work, commitment and dedication.

Working alongside our teaching staff and administrative team were, once again, two volunteer students from the organisation SAGE Net. We also hosted students from Stanford University, who worked with our dancers. Many thanks to our ongoing sponsors, donors and supporters of DFA.

Thanks also to Pam and Michael Freedman, Honorary Patrons of the Phyllis Spira Trust, for their tireless work in raising funds. Where possible, the Trust helps to support DFA students as they further their training. I would also like to thank members of the DFA Board for their continued support, interest and guidance in the work we do.

# CAPE TOWN OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The year has been a good one, though it was challenging due to funding issues. All the staff, however, continued with the work throughout these challenges. It is through these difficult times that we realise how much stretch, power and togetherness we have, and how much mental and physical strength is needed to succeed.

Our students continue to flourish in their talent and work hard to achieve excellent results. It is always a privilege and encouraging to have new students. It motivates teachers to nurture the talent and see how it grows.

DFA has an excellent partnership with the school principals and teachers in the communities where we teach, which makes our jobs easier. We have longed for this constructive relationship, and it is resulting in a healthy growth in the number of students attending classes.

After a successful 25th Anniversary Gala, we had to prepare for the Baxter Festival, during which 24 students performed. It was a wonderful opportunity for those students who had never performed on a professional stage.

Young DFA students were invited to perform at Artscape at an event hosted by well-known South African singer Aviva Pelham. The event was to raise funds for a music centre for Red Cross Children's Hospital and it was a great opportunity to perform with other well known Cape Town artists.

In November we held a community presentation for family and friends at the schools where we teach. For some parents, it was the first time they had seen their children dancing, and tears of pride and joy were shed. What a good feeling!

DFA hosted a week-long Stepping Out workshop for 86 students during the school holiday. The students could partake in a range of dance forms, including African, Hip Hop, Contemporary and Ballet. It was also a great opportunity and eye-opener for the Rural Outreach students, most of whom had never been to Cape Town.

During November, DFA held internal exams in all the venues where we teach. This is to assess how the students have grown over the course of the year.

To all the volunteers from all walks of life, guest teachers, photographers and tour groups, thank you so much for being part of DFA, for sharing your experience with our young dancers and for the impact you have made to enrich their lives. We are grateful.



# BALLET PROGRAMME

The year started with great excitement, with rehearsals and preparations for DFA's 25th Anniversary Gala. The Ballet students delivered a lovely performance of a pas de trois, "Souvenir Avec Trois", choreographed by the late Phyllis Spira. The piece was also showcased at The Baxter Dance Festival during October.

Three of the senior students on the Ballet programme who auditioned for the InSPIRations Youth Company received places and one of them, Kezia Dlamini, participated in a production hosted by the Department of Cultural Affairs & Sport (DCAS) at the KKNK (Klein Karoo Kunstefees).

Saturday Beginner classes with Ilse Basson, who also teaches DFA's Ballet classes at Rosmead Primary School, were introduced to provide a sound technical foundation for students before they progress to senior level.

When Daniela Di Lorenzo, who taught at DFA over the past year, accepted a full-time position at the Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA), the DFA Ballet students once again had the challenge of working with different teachers and choreographers who were unfamiliar to them.

A group of new students from DFA's Outreach Programme areas who showed potential and special talent joined their friends to be nurtured and receive more individual attention at DFA's academy (home base in Athlone). This will help to take them further with their Ballet training.

All the students enjoyed the Stepping Out workshop held during the holidays, which introduced some of the Ballet students, for the first time, to other dance forms.

DFA hosted a Ballet Open Day aimed at bringing more students on board.



# CONTEMPORARY PROGRAMME

With the 2015 end-of-year showcase, Imibulelo, behind them and the practical assessments completed, the students received comprehensive reports at the start of the new year. Based on these results, some Junior students were promoted to the Senior level class.

The Programme commenced after the December holidays with the addition of a new assistant teacher, Annie Hendricks, who graduated from the DFA Bridging Programme in 2015.

Auditions took place for the DFA InSPIRations Youth Company, with five students from the Contemporary Programme being chosen to join the youth company.

In March the students, along with the students from Jazzart, the EOAN Group and iThembaLabantu, attended a special schools performance of Darkroom Contemporary's "We, the transposed" at Youngblood Gallery in Bree Street, Cape Town. This performance was followed by a Q&A session with the creative team and dancers in the show, during which students could ask questions and find out more about the process of making the work.

This was followed by the March holidays, during which most of the students attended the holiday workshops and rehearsals being held at DFA.

The students were also invited to attend the performance "Shades of Love" by Cape Town City Ballet at Artscape Theatre on 11 May, a programme comprising five short ballets in a classical style.

DFA's 25th Anniversary Gala was a valuable experience for all the Senior Contemporary students, who had the opportunity of studying a range of dance styles and working with various choreographers.

The final months of 2016 were used for the end-of-year practical examinations, which took place in October. Students were also preparing for their final showcase, Imibulelo, which was staged in December.



# BRIDGING PROGRAMME

New Bridging Programme students were received onto the programme during the 2016 intake, with one of the students being from an Arts Focus school, Worcester Secondary, in the Cape Winelands town of Worcester, and a male student from George High on the Garden Route.

Two of the students were selected to join other DFA students participating in Jazzart's 2016 production of Azishe!

The Bridging Programme students have also become members of the InSPIRAtions Youth Company.

During this time the students had the privilege of attending a Contemporary class at the Paradiso Academy, taught by renowned choreographer Adele Blank.

One of the male students, Lorenzo Moolman, was also fortunate to be invited, along with one of the Senior Ballet students, to attend a second Dynamic Dance workshop, presented by Natalie Fisher and Kristin Wilson, which focused on technique and artistry.

In April, the InSPIRAtions Youth Company performed at The Lookout at the V&A Waterfront.

Unfortunately, in September, the Bridging Programme had to be put on hold until January 2017 because it lost three students. One was accepted onto Jazzart's three-year Training Programme and the two students from outside Cape Town had accommodation challenges and had to return home.



# InSPIRations YOUTH COMPANY

Students selected for the Bridging Programme were also accepted into the InSPIRations Youth Company.

In addition to performing in the 25th Anniversary Gala, the InSPIRations Youth Company participated in a production at Artscape Arena theatre in June, which was to pay tribute to the late Christopher Kindo, a renowned dancer and choreographer who also taught at DFA and choreographed a number of works on the students.

The company collaborated with the Taare Indian Dance Company in August for a production entitled "Rivers of Emotion", which formed part of Artscape's annual Women/Humanity Arts Festival. The 'humanity' component of the festival aims to provide a platform for disabled performers and choreographers to showcase their work.

The students worked with visiting choreographer Terrence Etheridge. His piece, "Aria", was also performed at DFA's 25th Anniversary Gala in August.

A small group of the dancers from the InSPIRations Youth Company were selected to perform in Clanwilliam during October as part of Artscape's empowering Kunstreffers rural project.



# RURAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME: BARRYDALE

As usual, when classes started at the beginning of the year, we gained and lost a few students. I am very pleased that, despite peer pressure from his high school classmates, one of the Seniors decided to continue his journey of dance with DFA.

The students had an incredible opportunity to dance at Artscape and they had a wonderful time.

This year we had Johanna, a volunteer from Germany, come and assist with classes for two months. She was extremely helpful and we both enjoyed the experience.

Eight of my junior students received an invitation to attend workshops for a week at DFA in Athlone. It was wonderful as none of them had been to Cape Town before. It was amazing to see the growth in them upon their return.

We did not hold our annual fundraising event this year as we had performed at Artscape and were invited to dance at the "Barrydale In Bloom" dinner event. It was a successful evening and even some parents came to watch the show. This was a big surprise for the students as their parents hadn't seen them dance before. It opened the parents' eyes as to what their children do, and their support both for their children and for the programme has grown since.

We recently received the generous donation of five laptops, thanks to GGZ Noord-Holland-Noord, in The Netherlands. These were handed to the senior dancers by Jean-Paul van Buitenen on behalf of GGZ Noord-Holland-Noord.

Another grand experience for the Seniors and Juniors was an interview with SABC for a new programme called "Children of the Rainbow". It highlights the children's ability to overcome obstacles through ballet or other means. In this case, Reagan Oncke was featured to show how he has overcome certain obstacles through ballet, and where he thinks ballet will take him in life. It was a wonderful thing to see him do this interview and listen to him telling his story of Dance and Life.



# RURAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME: MONTAGU

Lutho Zwendela Anele Bizwaphi and Lihle Mfene had the privilege of representing the Zolani work at the end of year DFA performance at Springfield Convent. Debbie Turner (director of the Cape Academy of Performing Arts) invited some of our students to come through once a month for Saturday training for 2016. Grateful thanks must go to our Rotary Club for enabling this to happen. The start of our year has been extremely busy registering and settling into classes in Ashbury Zolani Wakkerstroom Montagu High School and Baden. Kristine Elliott who visited with a guest and gave us the most inspirational class and workshop. Kristine very kindly organized for us to be able to bring through some students to watch the International Ballet Competition.

In the Breede River Communities DFA are celebrating ten years of establishing our work and are proud of our track record of successes. We have changed lives and inspired young people to believe and trust that talent, discipline, focus, hard work and commitment will make a difference no matter your circumstances. The dancers participated in the Montagu L'Erioca Cycling event, The Springroses Annual performance and a guest performance in Mcgregor with The Next Step Dance Company. The senior dancers participated in the Montagu Arts Festival as well as the DFA 25th Anniversary Gala. Former DFA student from Zolani, Montagu, Mthuthuzeli November won the best up and among artist at this year's Klein Karoo National Arts Festival. May his success be the inspiration and hope for all our up and coming youth.

The Education Department organized an Arts Festival bringing together all the best groups in our region leading to an invitation to DFA Montagu to showcase their work at the prestigious event in Worcester. Thank you to Natalia Da Rocha and the Montagu-Ashton Tourism Association, in collaboration with the Breede River Rotary Club, for valuing and supporting 16 deserving children to experience the magical world of Ballet through Cape Town City Ballets matinee performance of Coppelia.

The Montagu Youth Arts Festival now in its 21st year also saw our dancers excel. Adjudicators Ricardo Koopman and Cleo Notcutt awarded our younger group a Gold Award for a piece entitled 'African Dream' and our seniors A Double Gold Award for their 'New Beginnings' piece and trophies for the 'Best Dance Entry' and 'Outstanding Dance Contribution'. Seven of our most promising senior students showcased their own created work as part of the DFA 25th Anniversary Gala. I want to thank Africa Mtikitiki for his support and hard work over this past term. I truly admire and thank all the precious students for their commitment and dedication which led to their great achievements. I am extremely proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to continuing successes.

This fourth term started with unbelievable challenges 'The fees must fall' scenario taking place across our country affected our township school in Zolani. Youths vandalized the classrooms where our classes have taken place which led to the school governing body asking us to find a new venue to avoid the school being used after school hours. Eight years ago we started classes at a crèche this building is now empty due to a gaping hole in the wall rubble and shattered glass everywhere. We worked hard to clean it for it to become our new home! I am proud at the level of commitment of our youngsters a total reversal of the energy of the protesting students. It certainly is not the most ideal facility yet we persevere. In the July school holiday three of our seniors attended a leadership program at the invitation of Helen Gooderson of the RAD Foundation. Lihle Mfene impressed one of the visiting American participants who invited him to attend the Bates Dance Festival in Maine USA in July next year. The inclusion of some of our dancers to the Dance for All Stepping Out holiday program and Baxter Dance Festival have been the inspiration for us to keep on keeping on

Our Montagu programme has sadly closed, and so we have had to say farewell to Fiona Sargeant, who has been instrumental in the success of the Montagu Rural Outreach Programme, with great memories, and success stories, leaving DFA proud and grateful for the hard work put in during the run of this programme. Fiona was assisted by trainee teacher Afrika Mtikitiki. We wish them both the very best with their future ventures.



# CONTRIBUTIONS EQUIVALENT TO R 1 0 0 0 & MORE

National Arts Council  
Department Cultural Affairs & Sport  
National Lotteries Commission  
Concrete Units  
Group Five Pipe  
Uthando Tours  
Adrian Blaser  
HCI Foundation  
Philip Schock Foundation  
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Artscape Theatre Centre  
Stichting Intabazwe  
Bokomo

Ackerman Family Foundation  
Colourtone Aries  
Michael & Pam Freedman  
Department Arts & Culture  
J Challinor  
J Westwater  
The Streets Foundation  
J Ritchie

# FRIENDS OF DFA



The Friends of DFA is a loyal group of supporters who share in our vision of making a difference in the lives of children from disadvantaged communities by offering them the opportunity to receive dance training, along with the self-development benefits that go with it.

The Friends are partners in ensuring that DFA's 25 year track record of sustainability continues into the future. Their contributions therefore feed into the Annual Fund, which goes towards covering DFA's operational expenses so that the organisation has a solid and efficient base from which to improve and expand its programmes.

Friends of DFA receive complementary entrance to Annual Fund events throughout the year that will take them behind the scenes to experience the essence of DFA. They may also enjoy free participation in one of DFA's tours that takes visitors to watch classes held at its home base in Athlone and at other teaching venues in the surrounding township areas.

For more information on joining the Friends of DFA contact [admin@danceforall.co.za](mailto:admin@danceforall.co.za).

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT DFA

### FINANCIALLY

Become a Friend of DFA. 'Friends' funds contribute to our Annual Fund Campaign, which supports operating costs.

Make a contribution towards:

- transport costs
- sponsoring a programme
- sponsoring a teacher

Once-off general donation.

DFA is a Section 21 company and relies on donations for its continued work in the community.

### DONATIONS IN KIND

- Dancewear and shoes for our students
- Portable CD players for dance teachers' use
- Blank CDs and DVDs

- Food & beverage vouchers for functions
- Pro bono design & printing of programmes & promotional material
- Professional stage lights
- Performance costumes and clothes hangers
- Sponsorship of DFA Christmas party for students
- Stationary, office furniture and equipment

## TOWNSHIP DANCE TOURS

DFA invites you to share in the inspiration, joy and magic of our Cape Town outreach classes.

Join a tour group to visit DFA's dance classes in action at DFA in Athlone as well as in surrounding township areas. A bus leaves DFA studios in Athlone on a Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Tours cost R100 per person, to be paid at the Athlone studios. \* free for Friends of DFA.

Book in advance with Marlene Carstens on +27 (0)21 697 5509 or email [admin@danceforall.co.za](mailto:admin@danceforall.co.za)

## OTHER SERVICES

Our versatile Young InSPIRations Performing Group and InSPIRation Youth Company is available to be hired for events and functions.

Three spacious and professional studios (with canteen) are available at reasonable rates.

Costume hire from an extensive wardrobe.

# BANKING DETAILS

## OPTIONS

### ONE

Direct deposit (EFT)

ACCOUNT NAME: Dance for All

BANK: Nedbank

ACCOUNT NO: 104 805 5205

BRANCH CODE: 104 809

SWIFT CODE: NEDSZAJJ

IBAN: ZA10

Reference purpose of donation & surname. Please fax proof of payment to +27 21 697 1516 or email it to [admin@danceforall.co.za](mailto:admin@danceforall.co.za)

### TWO

EFT via the PayFast facility on the DFA website

### THREE

Cheque – made payable to Dance for All and posted to : PO Box 385, Newlands , 7725

NB: Email [admin@danceforall.co.za](mailto:admin@danceforall.co.za) with your contact details, including telephone, mobile number, email and postal address, to be added to our DFA database.

# THE PHYLLIS SPIRA TRUST



The Phyllis Spira Trust helps to support talented Dance for All students on their path to becoming professional dancers. Students who show exceptional potential are selected by DFA CEO Philip Boyd to apply to the trust for assistance. At the discretion of the Trustees, these students are sponsored while furthering their training at an approved, reputable dance school or academy.

Funds donated in memory of Prima Ballerina Assoluta Phyllis Spira form the core of the Trust. By making a donation, you can help to ensure that her legacy lives on through dancers of the future.

**Trustees:** Philip Boyd, Marlene Carstens, Eduard Greyling, Peter Mayhew.

**Honorary Patrons:** Michael and Pam Freedman.

Anyone interested in donating towards the Phyllis Spira Trust, please contact Dance for All on 021 697 5509. For further information, contact DFA Company Manager Marlene Carstens on 021 697 5509 or at [admin@danceforall.co.za](mailto:admin@danceforall.co.za)



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