



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

NEWS UPDATE 2020

EDITION ONE

As we entered a new decade, we hoped it would bring with it the return of a more prosperous time for our organisation. However, the funding constraints we experienced towards the end of 2019, which meant we were not able to host our annual Imbulelo showcase at the end of the year, also resulted in us having to adapt some of our timetables and programmes for the start of 2020.

Despite this, classes and programmes commenced in the first term with many new students joining us in the Cape Town Outreach areas and extramural programmes at schools.

Our trainee teachers coped well with the new challenges, with nurturing junior students and working in township venues.

Classes continued in the rural outreach areas of Barrydale, Riversdale and Prince Albert and, when classes began during the second term in Paarl, there was lots of excitement and many more students joining this extramural activity.

The number of students attending classes in Barrydale and Riversdale fluctuated, partly due to a lack of transport, thus leaving the task to the dance teacher to encourage and motivate new students in the community to join our classes.

The Bridging Programme students performed as the guest artists at the New World Dance Theatre (NWDT) annual end of year performance, as well as after the annual DCAS dance camp at Melkbos. In addition, in December, the students were invited to perform as part of the Choral Celebration Network event.

Also in December, a group of our students performed at the launch of the Suidoosterfees and the same group performed for the first time as part of the Figure of 8's Dance Alive event.

Student success stories

DFA has grown immensely over the past few years and, adding to our collection of more than 50 success stories, one of the members of the 2019 Bridging Programme, David Maluleka, and one of the Senior Ballet students, Amohelang (Amo) Rooiland, received placings to further their training at the Cape Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) from the beginning of this year. Congratulations to both of them and our thanks to Debbie Turner for offering our students these opportunities.

Khaya Magantsela, another of our 2019 full-time students, joined the full-time training programme at the Magnet Theatre. Thank you, too, to Jennie Reznick.

DFA's full-time students on the Bridging and Teacher Training programme showed immense improvement in their individual final dance exams, with most of the group returning for a second year during which selected students are afforded teaching opportunities.

COVID-19

Towards the end of March, our programmes were abruptly put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown.

We are fully aware of the seriousness of the health threat and of the devastating impact the lockdown has had on households struggling to make ends meet. Similarly, DFA is feeling the effects of curtailed funding. This is the case for most non-profit organisations, as well as institutions involved in the arts and performing arts.

- Some of our core sources of funding have been delayed or postponed and there have been delays in the processing of a number of our funding applications.
- Events and performances which DFA students were scheduled to participate in have temporarily been shelved. We regret that both the students and DFA are losing out on these opportunities. They were expected to be a source of income generation, so their postponement also impacts us financially.

At a time like this, we are reminded that one of the hallmarks of our organisation is its resilience. Against all odds, we have survived for 29 years. The current circumstances are, once again, putting us to the test.

We are responding by making full use of this time to do follow ups and to seek alternative sources of funding to support our ongoing work of empowering the youth. We are determined that, when we can resume classes, DFA will be there for the students: to continue their training and skills development.

But we can't do it alone! We ask those who already support DFA to continue to do so during this time and would love you to inspire others to join our support family (feel free to forward this newsletter).

Go to www.danceforall.co.za to donate (every little bit helps) or contact Artistic Director Allison Hendricks at allison@danceforall.co.za.

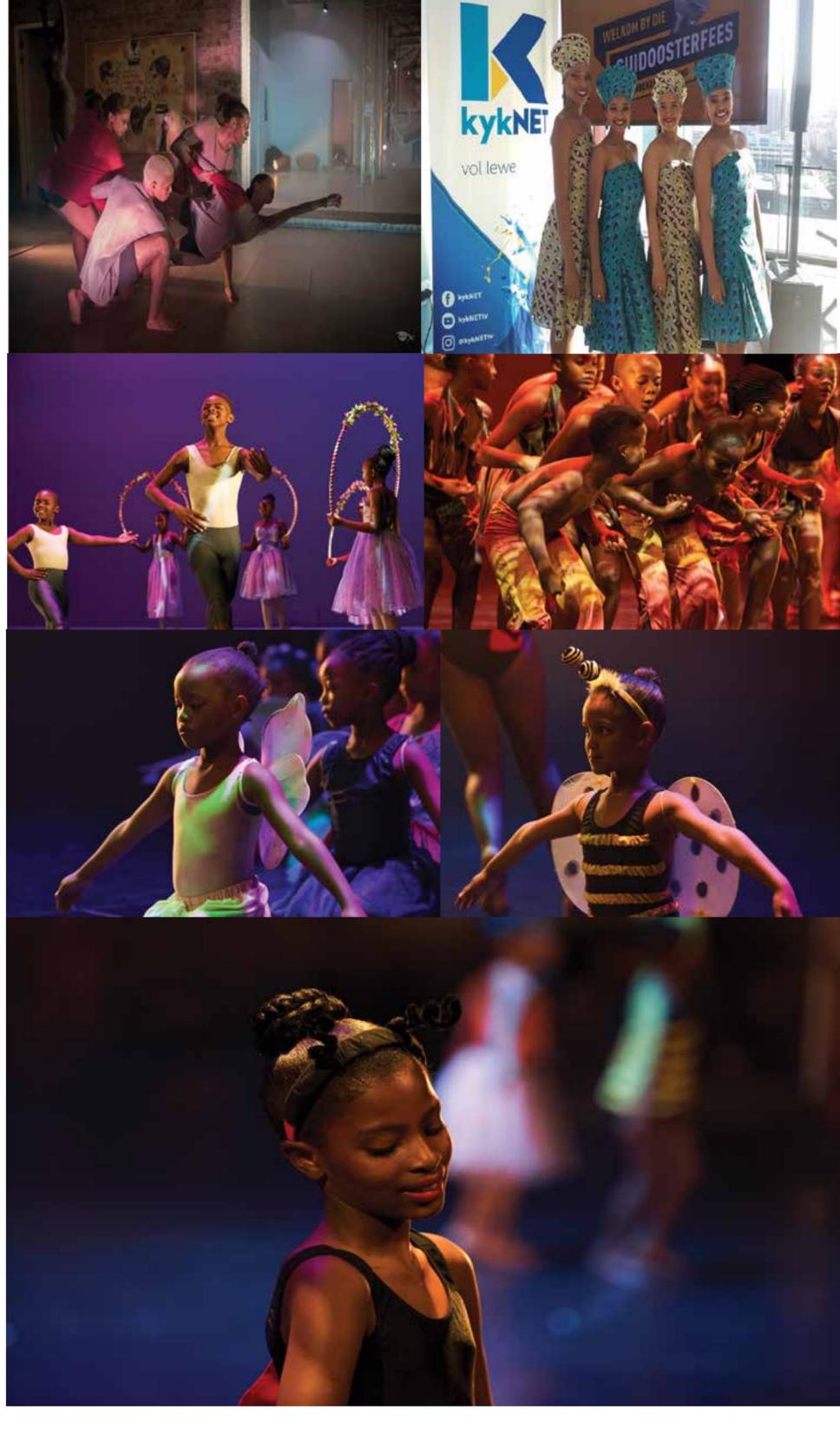
One thing we can say with confidence is that we have helped our students to build the resilience they need to get through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their dance training has equipped them with physical and mental fitness, and a spin-off of their rigorous training is that they have learnt how to take responsibility for their health, how to be disciplined and focused, to maintain a positive attitude and to persevere. Now, more than ever, they can call on these attributes to help them in their daily lives.

A beautiful example of the positive impact of dance and how it connects people is an initiative by the CEO and founder of the South African International Ballet Competition, Dirk Badenhorst. He kindly invited our students to take part in a project in which dancers from all over South Africa and across the continent sent video clips of them dancing in their home environments during lockdown.

Take a look: <https://youtu.be/2s2dAiygfgo>

As a reminder of the remarkable talent DFA nurtures and celebrates, and also in tribute to our in-house videographer, the late Dex Goodman, we invite you to watch a short video clip of some highlights of our 25th Anniversary, beautifully put together by Dex.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aD4Fja7tXG0>



TO ALL OUR FUNDERS, SPONSORS, PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS
THANK YOU FOR ONGOING SUPPORT.

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