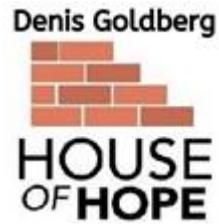


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Denis Goldberg House of Hope Newsletter no. 14 November 2021

ALCHEMY: WE CLAPPED AND CHEERED THE LOUDEST!!



On the evening of Monday 8 November 15 Hout Bay children – and their “minders” – sat entranced through three very different dances performed by the Cape Town City Ballet.

All three dances were choreographed by men. All were performed with astonishing skill. All were magical. But there were as many differences between them than similarities.

The evening began with George Balanchine’s *Concerto Barocco*, to Bach’s “Concerto for Two Violins”. This was a more classical ballet, but with the dancers in simple white tunics rather than stiff tutus. After 20 minutes to come down to earth from the lightness and grace of this piece, we watched eight

leotard-clad dancers perform the precise percussion-accompanied moves of Jiří Kylián's *Falling Angels*.

And then, after a five-minute break, we watched the wonder of all wonders – Robert North's *Troy Game*. Most of the children who went on the outing attend our weekly hip-hop classes with Jazzart. They could not but be inspired by the colourful, muscular, gymnastic, graceful and playful spectacle that they watched. Their excited faces, wide-open eyes, loud clapping and cheering at the end said it all.

The outing happened on a weekday evening. We hope that the children managed to sleep a little after all the adrenalin and excitement. If not, we know that they will think that a difficult Tuesday at school was well worth it.

A big thank you to Cape Town City Ballet for creating this performance, and for giving us tickets to attend.



HIP HOP IN OUR NEW BUILDING

September ended on a very upbeat note for us with the Saturday hip hop class happening in the Denis Goldberg House of Hope for the first time. The

neighbour who came out to watch what was happening must have had a good view as the sliding doors of the gallery were wide open, with the children dancing inside and Emile, the teacher, leading them from the outside space.

We are extremely grateful to Mainstream Mall for allowing us to use their open-air auditorium for so long. But we are simultaneously delighted to be dancing (and exploring) in our new home.



A HOLIDAY PROGRAMME THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BEAT

In early October, 24 local Hout Bay children participated in what was probably our best holiday programme to date.

The biggest highlight for everyone was a day spent at [Zip Zap Social Circus](#). The day started and ended with a bus-ride on a chartered Golden Arrow Bus. After an introductory session on arrival, the children were divided into five groups. The groups rotated between facilitators who helped them try out five different circus skills – mini-trampoline, juggling, trapeze, acrobatics and, the

overall favourite, tightrope walking.

The children were understandably tentative at first. But they astonished both themselves and us by how much they were able to achieve.

When everyone had had a chance at each of the five skills, the facilitators pushed the adrenaline levels up even further with short demonstrations of more complicated antics. Finally, the children watched a Zip Zap film.

Zip Zap, you will definitely see us again!



Holiday programme outing to Zip Zap Circus

On the bus-rides there and back, the children drew diagrams of all the traffic signs they saw along the way. This linked to the road safety focus of the other

two days. The Jonsson Family Foundation gave us both financial support for the holiday programme and more than 100 vizibelts. The latter are orange-and-grey adjustable reflective belts that children can wear when near traffic.

Our traffic theme included engaging with Denis's art works that depict a variety of wheeled vehicles, creating vehicles out of cardboard boxes and other scrap material, a game in which pairs of children matched vehicle signs and their meaning, and designing their own traffic signs. We also had a visit from two traffic officers. Officers Noel Saayman and Beverley Herbert led an interactive session on road safety in the open-air auditorium of our new building.

Each child was then given vizibelts and asked to experiment with interesting ways to wear them while still ensuring that they served the purpose of making the children visible. After each child had walked the catwalk to show off their style, three were announced as the winners. Each participant received five belts to take home for themselves, family and friends.

Multiple thanks are due – to everyone at Zip Zap, Golden Arrow, HCI Foundation, Encounters Film Festival, the Jonsson Family Foundation, Snoekies, Chad van Rooyen for the hip hop session, and Ange Ramsay for the children's yoga.



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#lifeiswonderful



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Newsletter no.14 November 2021

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