

pc11/8/5/20



KRISHNA SHAH
Artistic Director, Indian National Theatre

38, WALKESHWAR ROAD,
BOMBAY 6,
INDIA.

c/o HAROLD LEVINTHAL,
200 WEST, 57th STREET,
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

252 West 75th Street
Apartment 1-B
New York 23, N.Y.
May 15, 1963

Mr. Ian Bernhardt
Union Artists
P.O. Box 8162
Johannesburg
South Africa

Dear Ian:

I had a conference yesterday with Miss Mary Frank, Mr. Stanley Young, the President of ANTA, and Mr. Ben Washer, Miss Frank's public relations officer, regarding our bringing "Spoonono" here.

It seems that Miss Frank is interested in bringing the South African production to the United States. She is a well known Broadway producer. In my meetings with her I have not only been impressed with her imaginative ideas, but also with her intensity. As you remember, she produced Alan Paton's "Too Late for Phalorope" on Broadway and, therefore, is experienced in handling his work. Annie Laurie Williams certainly knew whom to give the script to.

Here are some of Miss Frank's ideas. She wants to bring the physical production as is to the United States with some minor modifications I might make. She plans to open the show in Washington at a White House charity in September or October of this year. She wants to get the endorsement of ANTA and the National Cultural Center, but she doesn't want their co-sponsorship because she wants to make this venture strictly professional and commercial. Before she brings the play to Broadway in March of 1964, she plans to tour the United States -- both North and South -- for five months. How long it will run on Broadway will depend upon the good graces of the critics and the strike-happy newspaper unions.

I am calling to your attention certain questions Miss Frank raised during our meeting. Do you think we will encounter passport difficulties where the actors are concerned? Do you think the entire cast will be willing to come, or will it be necessary for us to make some major replacements? In order to make traveling arrangements, we must know the cubic feet of the sets. If the sets are made in South Africa and shipped, what will be the basic cost of operations?



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Annie Laurie Williams will officially inform you of all these arrangements. Miss Frank has asked me to let you know informally about what is coming up. Please keep all this strictly secret, and, please do not publicize this at all.

For your information, Life magazine is doing a three-page ~~article~~ ^{picture story} on "Sponono" along with my article on "African Dilemma."

I have received royalty accounts from Laurie and Young. This takes us to May 8.

Please send a copy of this letter to Alan.

Sincerely,

Krishna Shah
Krishna Shah

KS:tp

cc to: Mary Frank, Annie Laurie Williams