

March 11, 1964

16/1/64
19/3
Dear Mr. Paton:

More from Krishna:

"Sorry I haven't written to you in the last few days. We had a runthrough of Act II yesterday...I felt I was pushing the actors but we are fighting against time for the first preview...

Act II, 1 - works beautifully and it gives the Principal a stature which is unbelievable. I have kept my theatricality in that scene to a minimum and let the words in the scene take over. Even Cocky isn't weeping like he did in South Africa and somehow there's a magic in that scene which gives it a beautiful texture....

After many procrastinations I did tackle the rape scene. I realized in that scene that Sponono's turning point is when Elizabeth says: "I would never think you would do such a thing". I allowed a certain pause before he starts his line: "Why can't we get out of here" and fill the pause with Sponono roaming in the room smiling, relaxed and then he gets this foolish idea. I did feel that the first draft of the rape scene was the best. We should not have tampered with it, but this draft I am going to try during previews and see. I have taken out all the embarrassments during the rape and Sponono and Elizabeth fall behind the bed and let the audience's imagination take over.....

Today we had a bloody good talk about Act III. We talked about South African politics, etc., and somehow it was so thrilling to listen to this discussion. Today I did block the Third Act. Michael Goodliffe is (ideal (an)) choice for the Principal. We could not have bettered him. He is masculine and at the same time has gravity in his face. Lionel, for the part of Mabaso, comes out very neutral because we have taken out the villainous quality. He may or may not work but I will know more about it in previews.....

Dying to hear from you....."

Sincerely,

Kendal Kelly
Kendal Kelly

Mr. Alan Paton
23 Lynton Road
Kloof,
Natal, South Africa