

"Sponono"

Wed. April 15, 1964

It has long been my assumption that the theatre is not only a mecca for just entertainment, but also a meeting place for the thoughtful, where stimulation and inspiration may be found, and enjoyed. So I produced "Sponono," a play that provides these particular qualities of theatre. The critics received "Sponono" with dignified attention and considerable satisfaction.

"Sponono" forebodes menacingly of the so imminent South African crisis, as pointed out by Howard Taubman in The Times last Sunday.

Where, though, are the theatregoers who bring their minds to the theatre? Where are the liberals? Where are the Negroes? Where is the thinking audience that should care, must care? They are far from the box-office of the Cort Theatre, as though in concert. Is there an arranged boycott?

Diplomats and clergymen find "Sponono" a challenge, vital and meaningful. They appreciate what co-authors Alan Paton and Krishna Shah are saying about South Africa. They have said so, out loud. But those who should be leading the parade to "Sponono" are not only not there...they have never been heard from. Where are they? Why? What have they to say?

If they do not come forth with support, and attention, before next Saturday, "Sponono" will not be here for them, or you, to see, and savor, ever again.

Mary K. Frank