

All-African Cast in Play at Alexander

The Dictator's Slippers ****

At: Alexander Theatre.
16th — 21st September.
Producer: Nora Caulfield.

What happens in a country when the dictator dies? One of five men is likely to slip into the dictator's slippers — what is to become of the other four? What effect does a political prisoner, brought straight from jail into this situation for interrogation have that finally causes one of the possible successors to burst out in exasperation, "Who is interrogating who?"?

These are the lines along which the play "The Dictator's Slippers" runs. Right from the beginning, with humour and suspense, the play is built up to its unexpected and dramatic climax.

The staging is simple and effective — both acts taking place in the office of his His Excellency, Saturn, Minister of the Interior and Chief of Police.

No less extraordinary than the play, is the cast itself. With one exception the cast consists entirely of Africans from the South-West Townships. By profession they are headmasters, teachers, clerks, etc. This is by no means their first performance. There have already been similar private performances at the Alexander, Cape Town and elsewhere. This is, however, the launching on a professional scale. The cast is already highly capable of giving a polished and professional performance. Top marks must go to producer Nora Caulfield for creating a top-class and enjoyable evening at the theatre.

J.M.R.