

Theatre 'Languishing For Something New'

A WELL-KNOWN producer of plays, Miss Nora Caulfield, said in Durban yesterday that world theatre needed something "new," and that unless something was done about the situation in theatre, it would eventually kill itself.

Miss Caulfield, who is in Durban as the producer of "The Dictator's Slippers," which opened at the M. L. Sultan Theatre last night, has acted in plays and been a producer in many parts of the world.

She is now working on productions for Moral Re-Armament, which has its headquarters in Switzerland.

"Plays are very depressing these days," she said. They do not have any hope or lift. I feel that besides entertaining people, theatre must play a constructive role and must contribute to the nation. Plays should not leave people asking: 'Is it worth living?'"

BORN ACTORS

Africans were born actors, she said yesterday. The cast of her play consists of 12 Africans and one European.

"At first I wondered how these men would cope with a modern drama of ideas, but my doubts were soon dispelled. In fact, I have seen the same play performed in Europe and these men from the townships give it a character and thrust that is unique. I wish I could get the same response from European casts."

Miss Caulfield is the daughter of the late General C. T. Caulfield. Her productions and travels have taken her to India, America, Canada, Africa and France. While in France, she produced a play in French.

RAND SUCCESS

She has lost count of the number of plays she has produced. Her latest play, "The Dictator's Slippers," has already enjoyed successes in Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Johannesburg. It has been invited to Kenya and might go to other parts of Africa.

Of this country she says: "I think South Africa has a real destiny. It will be a uniting force in the African continent."

Although she likes Durban very much, she must return to Johannesburg tomorrow because the Africans in her cast are teachers, administration officials and factory workers, and will have to be back at work.



MISS NORA CAULFIELD