

## CRITICS' FORUM

# They liked this 'clean, decent' play

**L**ETTERS FROM READERS to the critics' forum today concern the play "Through the Garden Wall" which is in the final weeks of its Johannesburg season at the Alexander Theatre. Some of the letters have been shortened.

**R**EV. HERBERT L. LEE of Johannesburg writes: "Congratulations to M.R.A. and Modern Theatre Productions. The late Mr. Peter Howard's play, 'Through the Garden Wall,' now showing at the Alexander, deserves far better treatment than it received from the pen of your critic, Frank Morton.

"The play, whilst possibly a departure from accepted dramatic values, says what needs to be said and says it bluntly. It challenges the futility of our general way of living and presents a powerful moral challenge.

"It will never cease to amaze me that so long as plays and films present sex and lust themes the reaction of the general public will be a favourable one. A departure from this, however, leads to cynical outbursts, such as contained in your critic's review."

★ ★ ★

**"UPLIFTED"** of Parktown writes: "I wish to thank the producers and cast of 'Through the Garden Wall' for a most enjoyable play. I saw this play overseas and was much more impressed by it here."

★ ★ ★

**W. J. PAGE** of Bryanston writes: "I find it difficult to see any connection between what your critic wrote and what I saw at the Alexander Theatre's production of 'Through the Garden Wall.' It is, surely, one of the most entertaining and refreshing theatre experiences we have had for a long time.

"A thousand thanks to a brilliant cast and to those who have had the courage to give us something clean and decent for a change."

★ ★ ★

**"THEATREGOER"** of Birdhaven writes: "I wish to thank M.R.A. for their wonderful play 'Through the Garden Wall.'

Let me say at the outset, I am not a member of Moral Re-Armament.

"The Star critic mentioned propaganda. Why should violence and sex be given propaganda and not the sort of theatre that shows how people can change for the better?"

"Besides, there was the sheer joy of seeing Margaret Inglis in a role that is so like many of us womenfolk, we laughed for days after seeing the play."