

JACK HYLTON IS
"TERRIBLY EXCITED"

Dennis Craig's DIARY

BIG MONEY in 'KING KONG'

THIS morning I am able to announce full details of the contract entered into between JACK HYLTON, the British impresario, who has bought the world rights of "King Kong" — excluding South Africa — and the four creators of the show.

In spite of the predictions of cynics who said that "King Kong" was a no-good musical, considered great only by South African negrophiles, West End or Broadway audiences will be seeing it within the next 11 months.

BEFORE APRIL

It is to open before next April in London or New York, depending on which city has the most suitable theatre available.

"We are all hoping it will be New York because HARRY BLOOM, PAT WILLIAMS, TODD MATSHIKIZA and myself are on a 6 per cent. share of the royalties," ARTHUR GOLDREICH, the man who designed the sets and costumes, told me.

"In London, the average takings of a show are £4,000, while in New York they are between two and three times as much."

ON THE LONDON FIGURE, THIS WOULD WORK OUT AT £240 A WEEK TO BE SPLIT AMONG THE FOUR, BUT THEY HAVE AGREED TO GIVE A SHARE OF THEIR EARNINGS TO THE UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ARTISTS AND TO STANLEY GLASSER, WHO ORCHESTRATED THE MUSIC.

PASSPORTS

It is not certain who of the original cast will play in the overseas production, but all have



Impresario HYLTON

applied for passports. Up to now the only one granted has been to MIRIAM MAKEBA, the leading lady.

From what HUGH CHARLES, Jack Hylton's right-hand man, told me when he was in Johan-

nesburg, he will probably take Miriam and certainly JOE MORGOTSI.

"I couldn't get a better 'Lucky' anywhere in the world," he said.

DOUBTFUL

In fact the only doubtful one of the Manhattan Brothers was NATHAN MLEDLE, who played King Kong.

"He could be good if he's willing to learn," said Charles. "If he thinks he knows it all, then he's no good to us."

What about it, Nathan?

Jack Hylton has written that he is "terribly excited" about the whole thing. He will negotiate the film rights after the show has been staged.

HIS SHARE OF SUCH A DEAL WILL BE 20 PER CENT., WITH 80 PER CENT. GOING TO THE FOUR CREATORS.

INFLUENCE

ARTHUR GOLDREICH, whose sets and costumes for "King Kong" Mr. Charles thought so highly of that he has asked the artist to design them for the London and/or New York production too, tells me that his set

design has influenced his paint

"I'm longer satisfied with small 'asses," he said. "I've taken painting enormous ones."

His 'approach' will be on view from next Wednesday when 13 pain measuring 5 ft. and a numt smaller works are being exed at the Whippm Gallery.

