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DATE.....

QUEENSTOWN DAILY REPRESENTATIVE

Now on Tour

"King Kong" was seen by 50,000 During Rand Run

JOHANNESBURG. — When the little penny whistler played his haunting "Little King Kong" tune for the 46th time at the close of the Johannesburg run of "King Kong" 50,000 people had paid more than £30,000 to see the biggest independent show in the history of the South African theatre.

Only Margot Fonteyn, Britain's prima ballerina, has caused a demand for seats nearly approaching the rush to see "King Kong."

But even the demand for Fonteyn was limited to a certain section of the people. "King Kong" has had the widest cross-section of people from the millionaire David Rockefeller to the poor Native domestic servant from the suburbs in the constantly crowded audiences.

Telephone bookings came from as far as 1,000 miles away and from every part of the country.

Special buses were hired to bring audiences from 300 miles away. More than 5,000 bookings came in the post. And telegrams asking for seats came from everywhere.

Theatre agents flew to Johannesburg from overseas to see the show.

Author Harry Bloom reported: "Now 'King Kong' fever has swept Cape Town. People are whistling the tunes in District Six and the

record is heard in homes all over the Peninsula. There has been remarkably heavy booking for the Cape Town run."

ANOTHER RUN

And Mr. Edward Joseph, a member of the "King Kong" committee who has looked after the money side, said "Though 'King Kong' has been expensive to produce, both the beneficiaries, the Union of Southern African Artists and the African Medical Scholarship Trust Fund will benefit handsomely from the proceeds."

Mr. Joseph added: "Thousands of people have been disappointed at not being able to get tickets. But we shall do our best to try to give another four weeks' run in Johannesburg when the show has come back from its tour."