

*
 Mongezi Feza, 30, South Africa-born trumpeter died in hospital in Epsom, London on December 14th, 1975. Cause of death was given as double pneumonia. Feza played with Chris MacGregor's band in South Africa and appeared with MacGregor's Blue Notes at the 1964 Antibes Jazz Festival. He came to Britain with the Blue Notes in 1965 and made London his base for

118 - JAZZ FORUM

most of the rest of his life. He worked with all MacGregor's subsequent groups and was a key member of the Brotherhood of Breath big band until his death. Feza worked extensively throughout Europe on tours and festival appearances with MacGregor and with other groups. He spent a year living in Sweden in 1972-3 and formed a memorable trio, called "Music for Xaba", with South African bassist Johnny Dyani and Turkish drummer Okay Temiz. The group's sole album on Sonet (SNTF 642) is probably the best representation of Feza's work on record. He was also a member of altoist Dudu Pukwana's bands — the Afro-rock group "Assagai" and the Township jazz group "Spear". Recently he had been much in demand in many contemporary jazz settings in London and played regularly with two of the most exciting groups currently active there — those led by altoist Elton Dean and bassist Harry Miller.

Feza's death came as a total shock to his many friends. He was a popular and much respected figure in contemporary music. His trumpet playing was always marked by a fire and exuberance that breathed life into almost any musical setting. His work was clearly within the jazz tradition but he was always willing to experiment and was undoubtedly one of those who moved the music forward with confidence in healthy directions. Good humor, excitement, inventiveness and a lack of musical

inhibitions were the hallmarks of the best of his work.

Feza can be heard on all MacGregor's most important albums and on record with Pukwana. The album he made with Harry Miller's band last October is due for release on the Ogun label in the near future. At the time of his death he had already made an important contribution to contemporary jazz.

(Roger Cotterrell)