

STOEP TALK

By
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Language theatre

WESTMINSTER Theatre in London can translate its current production, "Through the Garden Wall," by Peter Howard, into no fewer than 9 languages for its audiences.

French, Germans, Italians, Dutch, Spaniards, Norwegians, Japanese, Arabs and Portuguese can all be catered for in the theatre's Circle seats, which now cost R2.

Although the management hope all translations can be offered every night in the future, so far Italian translations are on Mondays; German on Tuesdays and Fridays; French on Wednesday and Saturday evenings; and Spanish on Thursdays. Arrangements can be made for groups in the other languages any night of the week, any performance, though the management likes to have advance warning.

The translators are all actors

and use their native language. They sit in hitherto little-used theatre boxes and a man and a woman take the respective parts of the actors on the stage.

The theatre's management says the translation service gives overseas visitors a chance to enjoy good London theatre in their own language.

African actors

Peter Howard's plays are now running on five continents in ten languages. One of them, "The Dictators's Slippers," opens in Johannesburg on September 16, where it will be presented by a

group of African actors at the Alexander Theatre.

It is set in the headquarters of a world revolutionary movement. It could be the Kremlin.

Elizabeth Bergner says of Howard's plays: "These are the most intelligent plays in the world today. This is the theatre of tomorrow."