

Rex Nettleford for Bahamian Forum

IDENTITY, Race and Culture will be the general theme of discussion at Bahamian Forum this Wednesday at 5.15 at the Sisters of Charity Convent Building on West Hill Street. And the guest speaker, the Hon Rex Nettleford O.M. is one of the Caribbean's most vivid and brilliant creative intellectuals.

Both founder-director of the National Dance Theatre of Jamaica as well as trades unionist and adult educator, historian-author, his twin creative-intellectual career has flourished since attending Oxford as a Rhodes scholar where studies in politics were combined with studies in dance.

The author of many articles and books facing the deeper issues of identity race and culture in the Caribbean, including *Mirror, Mirror: Identity, Race and Protest in Jamaica*, *Caribbean Cultural Identity and Roots and Rhythms*, he has also made an historical study of the Rastafarians and edits the *Caribbean Quarterly*.

Rex Nettleford is professor or Extra-Mural Studies at the University of the West Indies and is in Nassau as keynote speaker at the Adult Education conference taking place this week. In Jamaica, he directs the Adult Education Programme for the Commonwealth Caribbean territories and heads the Trade Union Education Institute. He has taught Politics in his university's department of Government as well as Politics and Culture in the UWI's Institute of Mass Communication.

For many years Professor Nettleford has been the chairman of the Institute of Jamaica, charged with the overall implementation of cultural policy in Jamaica and Cultural Advisor to the Prime Minister from 1972-80. He is founder, the current Artistic Director and Principal

Choreographer of, as well as dancer in the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica. He has led several overseas cultural missions from Jamaica since 1963 to North America, Europe, Australia, Latin America and Africa.

He has had experience in the field of development as founding Governor of the Board of the Canada-based International Development Research Centre. He is Chairman of the 44-nation Commonwealth Arts Organization and a Member of the Board of Trustees of AFS International/Intercultural Programmes. He is also a Trustee of the Foundation of the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA). He has acted as Expert/Consultant (on Culture) to the Government of Ghana 1962, FESTAC 76 (African Festival), CARIFESTA 76 and UNESCO.

Professor Nettleford has lectured extensively on Caribbean political development in many countries including India, the Philippines and Israel. His most recent appointments are: Vice-President of the International Council for Adult Education, Canada-based; and Governor of "News Concern," which will have overall responsibility for the Gemini Press Agency concerned with Third World Development.

Bahamian Forum is open to interested members of the public and is a public service offered by psychiatrist and former Harvard and Yale scholar Dr David Allen, coordinated by adult educator-journalist Liz Nathaniels, with the assistance of a committee. Bahamian Forum has been meeting weekly since October last year as "a space" as Dr Allen describes it "where people can take their heads out of neutral and really express what they think - a space where a person can unashamedly express his or



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her deepest convictions, regardless of any political or religious connotation."

"Anyone concerned with the deeper issues of life is welcome to join in" explains graduate of Harvard's Graduate School of Education, and Bahamian Forum Coordinator, Liz Nathaniels.

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