

International Conference to Honour Nettleford

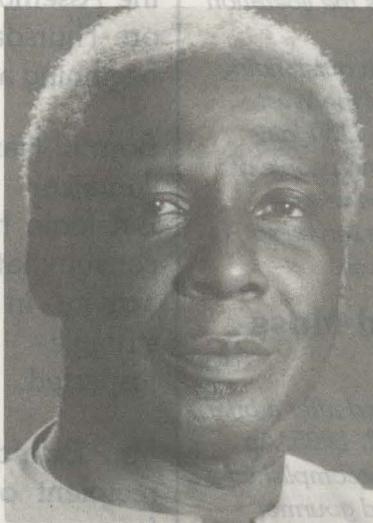
Between March 3 and 6, the University of the West Indies will host a Conference on Caribbean Culture in honour of leading Caribbean citizen and Pro-Vice Chancellor at the institution, Professor Rex Nettleford. The event, which will be held at Mona, will bring together scholars, artists, and other experts to focus on the Caribbean and the African and Indian diaspora.

In announcing the event, UWI Vice Chancellor, Sir Alister McIntyre, noted, "We feel that the work of Professor Nettleford merits the kind of serious study that the event will attract, and the documentation that will result from papers submitted will be invaluable in terms of further study

of Caribbean cultural identity."

He added, "The University anticipates that the conference will result in practical recommendations for future growth in the many areas in which Professor Nettleford has played a seminal role."

The conference is being organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Institute of Caribbean Studies. The areas to be covered include, "The Nature and Character of Carib-



bean Culture", "Globalization and Caribbean Culture", "Politics and Culture", "Economics and Culture", "Technology and Caribbean Culture", "Caribbean Religion and Identity", "The Caribbean and Afro-Latin America", "Caribbean Popular Culture", "The Arts, and Caribbean Identity" "Building and Sustaining Cultural Institutions" and "The Performing Arts as a Decolonizing Strategy".

Conference Coordinator, Dr. Barry Chevannes, notes that the UWI's call for papers has met with a tremendous response. "It is anticipated that the University will be host to participants from across the globe," he said.

Professor Nettleford's intellectual and artistic contributions to the issue of black identity in the Western world, as well as his understanding of the role of culture in development, generally, have earned him respect throughout the Americas, Europe and Africa.

Locally, Professor Nettleford is perhaps best known for his contribution to the development of the Arts. He is artistic director of the

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National Dance Theatre Company which is recognized as one of the premier dance companies in the Western Hemisphere.

He is Chairman of London's Commonwealth Arts Organization, Chairman of the International Council of University Adult Education, founding and longest serving Governor of the International Development Research Council (Ottawa). He has also served as consultant on cultural development to the Organization of American States.

Professor Nettleford has received many honours and awards for his work. He holds the Jamaican Order of Merit, the Zora Neale Hurston-Paul Robeson Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement from the National Council for Black Studies, USA, and the degree of Doctor of Letters, (honoris causa) from St. John's University, New York. In 1995 he further received a Doctor of Humanities (honoris causa) from the University of Hartford, USA, while Brooklyn College, City University of New York (CUNY) awarded him the prestigious Presidential Medal.

He is editor of *Caribbean Quarterly*, the oldest scholarly journal in the English-speaking Caribbean, and the author of "*Mirror, Mirror: Identity, Race and Protest in Jamaica*", "*Manley and the New Jamaica*", "*Roots and Rhythms*", "*Caribbean Cultural Identity*", "*Dance Jamaica:*

Self Definition and Artistic Discovery", "*The University of the West Indies: A Caribbean Response to the Challenge of Change*" (with Sir Philip Sherlock), and "*Inward Stretch, Outward Reach: A Voice from the Caribbean*".