

B/N NETTLEFORD, Ralston Milton (Rex)

12. REX NETTLEFORD

The Honourable Ralston Milton Nettleford (born February 3, 1933, Falmouth, Jamaica), better known as Rex Nettleford, is a Jamaican scholar, social critic, dancer and choreographer.

Nettleford was a recipient of the 1957 Rhodes Scholarship, and returned to Jamaica in the early 1960s to take up a position at the University of the West Indies (UWI). He became vice chancellor of the UWI in 1996, and held that office until 2004. In 1963 he founded the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, a group which under his direction did much to incorporate



traditional Jamaican music and dance into a Nettleford's contributions to the issues of black identity in the Western

world as well as his understanding of the role of culture and development, has earned him great respect throughout the Americas Europe and Africa. He is chairman of London's Commonwealth Arts Organisation, a member of the

executive board of UNESCO, chairman of the International Council on the University Adult Education, and founding and longest-serving governor of the International Development Research Council (Ottawa). Professor Nettleford also served

as consultant on cultural development to the Organisation of American States (OAS). In 1975, the Jamaican state recognised his cultural and scholarly achievements by awarding him the Order of Merit.

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