

B/N Nettelford, Kalston Milton "Rex" (Prof.)

Kingston, Jamaica

Sunday February 14 - 20, 2010

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Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010



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Rex

...National Hero!



By Fae Ellington

Engaging and stimulating

The Hon Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford OM, should be named National Hero. This is my considered opinion.

The National Honours and Awards Act promulgated on July 18, 1969 instituted the Order of National Hero as the most senior order in Jamaica. It states, 'The honour of the Order of National Hero may be conferred upon any person who was born in Jamaica or is, at the time of his or her death was, a citizen of Jamaica and rendered to Jamaica service of a most distinguished nature. A member of the Order is entitled to be styled "Rt. Excellent" and the motto of the Order is, "He built a city which hath foundations."'

Professor Rex Nettleford didn't just build a city; he built a nation, a region, a consciousness and a respect of, for and among black people, with his spotlight on the black Caribbean. He built a collective intellect. He blazed the trail in iconoclastic scholarship on fundamental issues grounded in cultural identity, self-acceptance and the empowerment of a Jamaican/Caribbean people.

As he often reminded us, we are all from the cane piece regardless of the position we hold now or held then — house slave, field slave. Rex Nettleford helped those of us who cared enough to build an understanding of what it means to be a Jamaican by dint of hard work, passionate application and critical analysis. He gave to Jamaica service of a most distin-

guished nature in academia, trade unionism, public life, and through the performing arts, in particular dance.

He used the National Dance Theatre Company, which he co-founded in 1963, as the society's mirror to itself. Mirror, Mirror! This quintessential man's contribution should be rewarded with Jamaica's highest national honour, Order of National Hero.

Let me be the first to say that the measure of the man would not allow him to see himself at these lofty heights. He would no doubt accept that he made his contribution but no more than several other Jamaicans. I see it differently, Professor. You never knew and now you'll never know the impact you had on so many for such varied reasons. If Prof (that's what I called him) taught you, or even just engaged or interacted with you, you had to learn.

As a lecturer, he was totally conversant with his material, always fully prepared for class and respectful of the students' interventions. He used no notes or printed lesson plan. His classes were structured, engaging and stimulating. There was an ease of logical sequencing. He also taught the importance of time management and punctuality. You never dared enter his lecture room late.

I can't ever recall seeing Rex Nettleford in a suit, the traditional jacket and tie. He wore karebas and I particularly liked him in the Nehru-neck kareba suits that made him look so regal. It didn't matter the function he always stood out. His fashion statement was sartorial confidence. His carriage was that of someone who knew who he was; where he came from, where he had got to and was sure of where the path he was on would take him.

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Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010



Continues from P2

Distinction between training and education

Prof had a special place in his heart for the students of the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) at the University of the West Indies. I believe he taught there from its inception in 1974 to his passing. Along with his myriad jobs on campus and his hectic travel schedule, he taught cohort after cohort, year after year of Media and Communication students.

The students pursuing the one year intensive diploma course, all working

was a handwritten letter on his Vice Chancellor's letter head, which read in part, "Our journalists need to be educated and not just trained; and you, among a far too few in the fellowship, have demonstrated the wisdom of this." His letter to me is one of my prized possessions. I framed it shortly after receipt.

Rex utterances

Only Rex Nettleford would think of phrases such as 'historical amnesia', 'Do you drive your car without a rear view mirror' when addressing why he constantly speaks about slavery and the need to look back and understand from whence we came. 'A bhutto in

Order of National Hero, he more than any other deserves it. For me, this is befitting the status of the man.

Ralston Milton 'Rex' Nettleford helped you and me shape our identity, often without us even knowing it. He may not have marched from Stony Gut nor was he arrested and charged for complicity. His fate was not that of hanging on October 23 or 24, 1865. Rex Nettleford must have contemplated time and again that poignant statement, 'I would rather die upon yonder gallows than live in slavery.'

His was not the task to start the Universal Negro Improvement

Association nor was he engaged in the planning of guerrilla warfare to confuse the British. It was not Rex who confronted the colonial governor with the words, 'Long live the King! But Denham must go' nor was it he who said, 'I say that the mission of my generation was to win self-government for Jamaica, to win political power, which is the final power for the black masses of my country from which I spring.'

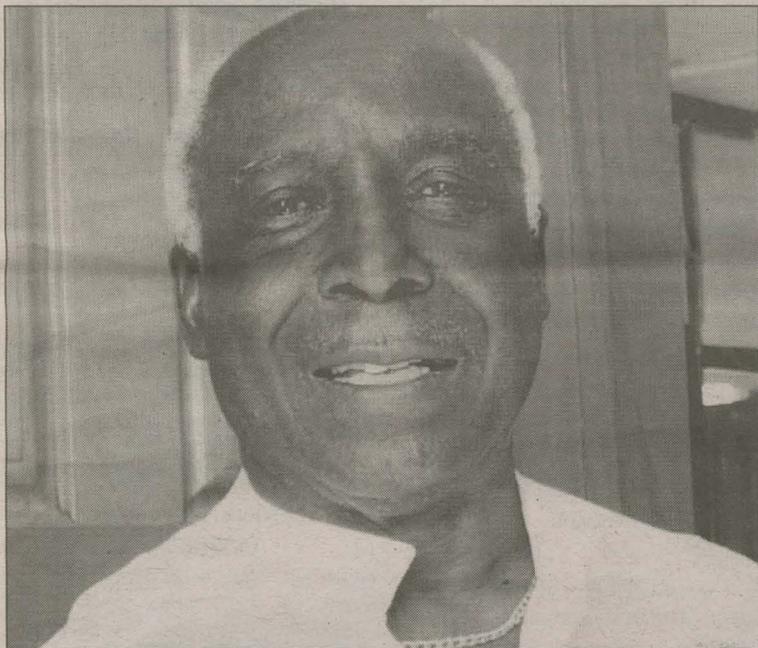
What Rex Nettleford did was to take the vision and expand the foundation of our six heroes and one heroine, individually and collectively, combining his intellect and creative genius to position

the Nation of Jamaica and the Caribbean Region on a global pedestal. Is that the work of someone worthy of the mantle of National Hero or what!

As you would say Rex, Bless you!

My column is published every other week, so back with you on February 28, DV. Walk good!

Fae Ellington is a broadcast journalist, lecturer in radio and a communication consultant. Your views and comments are welcome. Send them to fae@mail.infochan.com



journalists and persons with jobs in the Communication field benefitted tremendously from his classes.

Rex Nettleford made it abundantly clear that journalists could not do a good, balanced, accurate or thorough job without understanding the context in which they operated — that of the history, politics and culture of the region, and by extension the world. So along with Professor Roy Augier they taught in these areas.

Prof made a very important distinction between training and education of journalists. He saw them both as important but he was more than concerned that too many journalists concerned themselves only with the training.

A month or so after graduating with my Masters Degree I was off to St. Lucia to conduct a three-day UNESCO training workshop for journalists. Unknown to me, Rex the Caribbean icon was there at the very time. Delivered to my hotel in St. Lucia

a Benz is still a bhutto.' 'The one that comes to you with the biggest smile has the longest dagger.' 'You need to become psychologically attuned.'

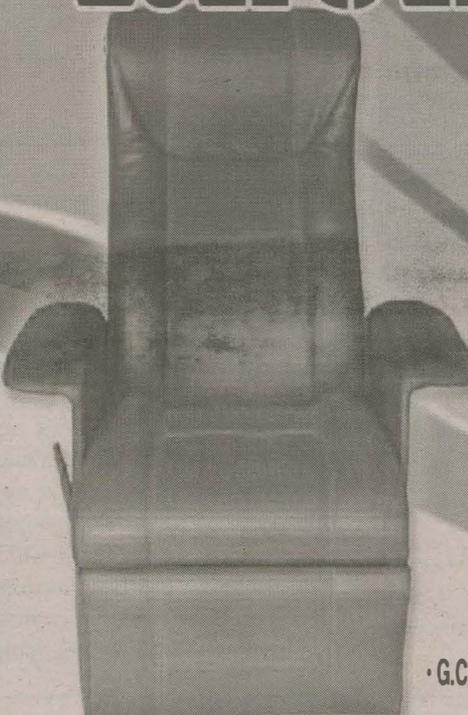
I weep not for Prof instead my attitude is one of gratitude. I thank God that he touched my life. I thank God for his intellect and commitment to his nation. Let us celebrate his memory and the decades he spent on that investigating and elucidating the need for all of us to grasp the understanding of the urgent need for each of us to move to a place of 'Inward Stretch; Outward Reach'.

Expanding the vision

His contribution to nation building and regionalism cannot be quantified and will take decades to be fully comprehended. But perhaps the best way to memorialise and recognise his true worth is by bestowing on him the

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On the Cover

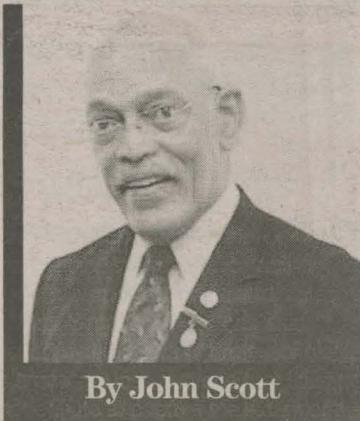


Susan Taylor, former *Essence* Magazine editor in chief, embraces University of the West Indies Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor Rex Nettleford, to the delight of other guests at the AFUWI 2009 gala, including her husband, Kephra Burns (second left). Professor Nettleford was always at the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) gala held each year in the USA, and which honours leading Caribbean luminaries.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For **Effective Living**

Help wanted — apply within



By John Scott

A friend of mine who has more degrees behind his name than anyone else I know was desperately looking for a job.

As we exchanged computer messages, he wrote, "I've flooded the market with resumes and I have been to so many interviews, I've lost count. My ego is taking a terrible beating! I'm beginning to wonder if I am worthy of the job I want. Why is it taking so long to get a job?"

There was this long silence while I tried to figure out how to tell him that it sounded as though he was giving prospective employers the power to determine his self worth and that this could become a self-fulfilling prophesy of rejection. Eventually, I asked whether he took it personally when he was turned down for a job.

He admitted that each refusal left him feeling badly about himself and he faced the next interview with a sense of discouragement and desperation. I saw that his desperation completely undermined his self-confidence and attracted more of the same disappointing results that he so dreaded.

Law of attraction

So I explained the Law of Attraction — that you attract into

your life what you focus your thoughts on — and then wrote, "You have a job to do that is bigger than any for which you have applied. That job is to deepen your understanding of your union with and importance to Life. When you understand this, the right perfect job, which allows you to express your life purpose will present itself."

After a pause, he typed "wow!" in lower case letters, then, "So what do I do?"

I wrote: "The Universe has out a classified advertisement which reads, "Help Wanted. Apply

creative unique ways. The salary is top of the scale. The benefits are excellent and the opportunities for advancement are unlimited. But you have to *apply within*, to your own God inspired consciousness.

Real job description

Kathleen L Hawkins, co-author of a book, *Time Management Made Easy*, writes, "Long before your first professional job, you were hired for another job, for something greater and more global than "nine to five."

She postulates that our real job

and every day is payday.

Here are some of the job benefits — family and friends, creative self-expression, a breathtakingly beautiful work environment, comfortable housing, radiant good health and daily spiritual insights. Your paycheck is just one channel of your infinite inexhaustible income.

Pick up pay cheques

Have you ever wondered why it is that some people seem to receive a better salary in life than others? "Why," you ask yourself, "do they appear to be richer and happier and more personally fulfilled? What are they doing that I'm not doing?"

The answer is simple. They remembered to pick up their pay cheques.

Today is payday and senior management has an open-door policy. At any time of night or day you have direct access to Divine Wisdom, Intelligence and Love. Make a point of meeting regularly with senior management through prayer and meditation. When you do you will find that you solve problems more easily; you will make wiser decisions and you will feel better about yourself, about every other self and about your life.

The Truth is that as a part of Creation you are infinitely valuable.

You play a vital role in the Universe. The Universe needs you. You've got the job. Congratulations! Can you start work today?

Rev. John Scott is co-pastor of the Temple of Light Centre for Spiritual Living, 4-6 Fairway Avenue, Kingston 10. Email: templeoflight@cuajamaica.com

'You have a job to do that is bigger than any for which you have applied. That job is to deepen your understanding of your union with and importance to Life. When you understand this, the right perfect job, which allows you to express your life purpose will present itself.'

Within." I told him to write out this affirmation 21 times every night for 21 nights "I love and approve of myself." Then I added this, "Spirit is my employer and my paymaster and Spirit loves and approves of me"

Good news. Long before he had completed the 21-day assignment, he was offered a job for which he had not applied and had not sent a resume. His starting salary exceeded what he had hoped for. Here is the lesson for us.

The Universe wants someone to express Unconditional Love, Divine Wisdom and Abundance in

description is to: (1) Individualize Spirit on this plane of activity; (2) Enjoy unlimited love, prosperity and abundance; (3) Live our life creatively with enthusiasm; (4) Contribute something of value to the lives of others and to society and, (5) Continue to evolve spiritually.

To get the job, you were not required to attend any hand-wringing interviews or to provide any references. You got the job because you're related to the CEO, to the Infinite. Further, because you are on Spirit's eternal payroll, your earning power is unlimited

A course on spiritual economics is being presented at the Temple of Light Centre for Spiritual Living, 4-6 Fairway Avenue, Kingston over the next several Mondays, ending March 1.

Facilitated by Rev. Dr Sonia Davidson and Rev Ann Shand, the very topical course is based on Eric Butterworth's best selling book, *Spiritual Economics: The Principles and Process of True Prosperity*.

Themes to be discussed include "Your fortune begins with you," "The grateful heart," "How to reverse financial adversity," "Security in a changing world," "The wonder of giving," and "A new world vision."

Class times are Mondays from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and participants may elect to attend single or multiple sessions. Further information is available from the church's office, telephone 927-6145.

Course on spiritual economics



Happy Birthday

• Birthday greetings to the Senator **Marlene Malahoo-Forte** and Pulse's general manager, **Romae Gordon**, who celebrate today, Valentine's Day; **Marilyn Beckford**, CEO of Answers and Beaches entertainment manager **Weston Haughton** on the 15th, cabaret artiste **AJ Brown** and businessman **Ron Brown** on February 17, Ash Wednesday; and **Rev. Easton Lee** and Capital & Credit's **Ryland T Campbell** on the 20th.

Belated greetings to **Sharon Roper**, marketing manager, at Flow, who celebrated on February 10. Many happy returns to you all!

Clive Dobson, who still carries the title of President Emeritus of the NWU, also celebrates a birthday on Valentine's Day. Loving birthday wishes are from his wife, Elizabeth.



Marilyn Beckford — February 15



Weston Haughton — February 15



Ron Brown — February 17



AJ Brown — February 17



Ryland T. Campbell — February 20



Rev. Easton Lee — February 20
FILEPHOTOS



Our prayers are with **Layne Witter**, veteran designer, who is terminally ill. Layne fell ill last week and was immediately hospitalized. She is resting comfortably. FILEPHOTO

• Our condolences to **Lloyd B. Smith**, managing director of the Western Mirror and president of the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce, whose mother of 96 years, transited last week.



PUT THE RING ON IT! Congratulations to **Sidjae Robinson** of Digicel and **Vinay Walia** of the Guardsman Group who were engaged recently. Yes, he did get down on his knees, said Sidjae. The couple should be tying the knot in a month or so. QUEENBEE PHOTO

More on P.24



Marlene Malahoo-Forte — February 14



Romae Gordon — February 14

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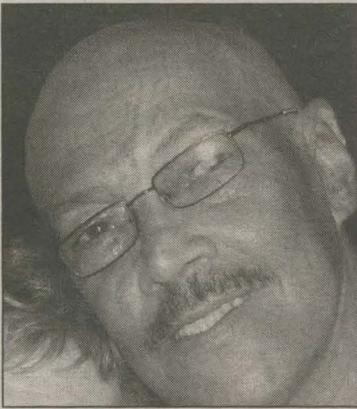
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Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010

My Friend Rex



By Bert Rose

I first met Rex Nettleford in 1960 during the staging of the 1960—61 LTM pantomime "Jamaica Way" in which I was a chorus member (one of the Teddy Boys) and Prof was the choreographer. He had just taken over the choreographic duties from Eddy Thomas and our initial tutor/student relationship quickly became a firm friendship.

In 1961 Rex formed the Jamaica Dance Company (JDC) using leading dancers from all the existing major dance schools (The Fay Simpson School, The Soohih Dance School, The Ivy Baxter School and the Eddy Thomas School).

In that same year the JDC performed in Washington D.C. at the Howard University using a repertoire of mainly dances from the Ivy Baxter school. Although we did not know it at the time, this became the embryo of the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC).

In 1962, as Jamaica became an independent nation, the group (with the addition of dancers from the Doris Rumsey School) prepared a season of celebratory performances at the Little Theatre. The choreography for this season was done by Eddy Thomas and included dances, which later became famous and celebrated like "The Legend of Lover's Leap".

In September of 1962 following on the success of that season, the NDTC was formed with Rex and Eddy as joint first directors. The company comprised five male dancers (including Eddy and Rex) and nine females. I felt privileged indeed to be invited to be a part of that select group. The

NDTC went on to create a new and totally Caribbean vocabulary of dance, which was received warmly throughout the Caribbean and the World.

Many of the dancers from that group went on to study overseas, but we always made it a point of duty to return home for the NDTC season. In the early 70s many of us started dance schools and with the plan to develop the Cultural Training Centre (CTC), now the Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts in the mid 70s, Rex asked us to form a national school of dance. The Jamaica School of Dance (JSD) was thus formed prior to the completion of the CTC.

Epitome of role models

Over the years it has been an honour and privilege to interact with Rex and share his space. His influence, and guidance have played a great role in forming the person I am today. Rex's

extraordinary work ethic, his determination to get things done and done properly, his endless encouragement and kindness to all and sundry made him the epitome of role models. I find it difficult, if not impossible, to imagine Jamaica, the Caribbean, and indeed the world without the presence of this colossus of humanity.

On a personal note, Rex was a great friend on whom you could call at any hour of day or night for advice or assistance. He was a super sounding board on which you could bounce your ideas secure in the knowledge that they would return shiny and improved. Yet for all his creative talents and amazing intellect, he was never egotistic and would always ask for a critique of his new dance works and act upon this criticism to improve the dance.

His work ethic is legendary. Once when the NDTC performed in Mexico City I had fainted twice during the performance due to altitude sickness and

had to miss the final dance number, spending that time lying on a couch in Rex's changing room. However, being young and somewhat foolish, I still managed to involve myself in an arrangement with Jackie Guy and Barry Moncrieffe to go out to dinner with some folks we had met. This was not of course a healthy choice of action.

We planned carefully knowing that Rex was inevitably the last person to leave the theatre, and ran from the venue to the hotel planning to be gone to dinner before Rex had arrived. To our astonishment we arrived in the hotel lobby to see Rex seated there marking university papers. He had obviously got wind of our plans. Despite our best efforts to emulate James Bond we never left the hotel that night as Rex spent the entire night in the lobby, determined that we would not leave.

Abiding friendship

On another occasion in Germany, we arrived at the venue to discover that we were scheduled to perform on formica placed on the floor of a circus tent. The smell of elephant urine and other animal odours and the uncomfortable appointments led a group of us to instigate a rebellion, declaring that we would not dance in those conditions.

Rex quelled this with one simple statement, "Those who will not dance leave now, and prepare yourself to return to Jamaica immediately." Needless to say we had one of our best performances ever and the entire company took part.

Rex was present at all my Boxing Day gatherings at my home and in 2009 (a mere six weeks ago) he arrived with food containers in hand and presented them to me, noting, "Now I won't have to go home with your pots." He added a reminder to make sure I included plenty curry goat. Rex loved curried goat and although an infrequent drinker was also fond of brandy and ginger ale.

He often called at 5 a.m. with some piece of information he thought I should have, and did so on the morning of this last eventful trip, calling from the airport lounge to inform me that he was on his way to the US and Canada. He also took the opportunity, on this last occasion on which we would speak, to remind me once again that I had promised to procure some goat for him. The mutton now sitting in my freezer is a sad reminder of this last promise between us.

Rex spoke of his recently departed mother often. He was dedicated to her and would speak with her on the phone every day, visiting her often and most certainly on her birthdays.

He was a very private person, despite his public stature and was also a shy person despite his talent for public speaking and his ability to be sociable. He was a fantastic listener, making the speaker feel that every word was of inestimable value.

I treasure the close and abiding friendship we shared beyond my ability to express its importance in words. He will live forever in my heart.



Professor Rex Nettleford, O.M., Vice Chancellor Emeritus, UWI, converses the Hon Lensley Wolfe (right) and Errol Brennan (left) JP and chairman/CEO of Sunshine Auto Parts Limited. Professor Nettleford was the guest speaker at the Anglican Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands second annual gala fund-raising dinner held at the Hilton Kingston Hotel on October 30, 2009. ALEPHOTO

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010

Official funeral for Rex Nettleford

JIS:

The Government has accorded an official funeral to the late Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Professor the Hon Rex Nettleford O.M., at the University Chapel, Mona Campus, next Tuesday (February 16) starting at 10 a.m.

Professor Nettleford, who also founded the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC), died on February 2 at the George Washington Hospital in Washington D.C. in the United States.

Speaking at a press briefing on Monday (February 8) at the UWI, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Olivia Grange, said that a planning committee, chaired by Professor Barry Chevannes, has been put in place to make the necessary arrangements.

"The Government has taken the position that, although it is an official funeral, the planning for the funeral, and all other related activities, will be a collaborative one, which will accommodate the wishes of persons who were closely affiliated with Professor Nettleford," Miss Grange said.

Professor Chevannes stated that as many as 2,000 persons can be accommodated at the funeral service. He added that tents would be set up outside the chapel to accommodate the large turnout expected.

Because of the chapel's limited size and capacity, the number of persons who will be able to sit inside will be limited, Professor Chevannes said. Officials of state will be accorded space inside, as well as the senior management and staff of the university community, the Diplomatic Corps, the family and similar categories.

Session of tribute

The funeral is expected to last for two hours, and will include tributes from Prime Minister, the Hon Bruce Golding; Leader of the Opposition, Hon Portia Simpson Miller; and representatives of the NDTC and the trade union movement, among others. Classes at the University will be suspended in the morning.

The celebrant will be the Lord Bishop of Jamaica, the Rt. Rev Dr. Alfred Reid, who will be assisted by the Rt. Rev Dr. Don Taylor, and other chaplains of the university. The University and NDTC Singers will present a musical tribute, as a prelude to the service.

Condolence books will be opened in honour of Professor Nettleford. An announcement will be made regarding the location.

A session of tribute will also be held in the House of Representatives on Tuesday (February 16), which will include tributes from two former Prime Ministers — the Most. Hon. Edward Seaga and the Most Hon. P.J. Patterson, in addition to past Chancellor of the UWI, Sir Shridath Ramphal, and the current Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne.

A traditional "Nine-Night" was also be held on Thursday (February 11) at the Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre. It will be produced by the Jamaica Cultural Development Centre (JCDC).

The UWI, Mona Campus, will also host a special tribute to Professor Nettleford on the February 25, at the Oriental Gardens, beginning at 6:30 p.m., to which the public is invited. The NDTC will also pay a tribute to its founder on February 16, at the Little Theatre starting at 7 p.m.



Minister of Education, Andrew Holness (right) listens attentively to chairman of the Planning Committee for the funeral arrangements for the late UWI Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, Professor Barry Chevannes making a point at a press briefing on Monday (February 8) at the University's Mona Campus.

JIS PHOTO

Tribute to



**PROFESSOR THE HON. RALSTON MILTON
'REX' NETTLEFORD, OM, FIJ, OCC**
(February 3, 1933 - February 2, 2010)

The quintessential Caribbean man... cultural icon...
social and political critic... writer... scholar... choreographer... dancer...
trade unionist... the epitome of the human spirit.

The indelible mark that Professor the Hon. Ralston Milton 'Rex' Nettleford
etched on the local, regional and international
landscape transcended politics, race and social barriers.

A true 'Renaissance Man', Professor Nettleford led a distinguished life of
service across several fields, and was world-renowned for his tireless
dedication to nationalism, academia, culture,
journalism and trade unionism.

His scholarly achievements and cultural legacy remain
immeasurable and will inspire generations to come.

Join us in celebrating the life of this Caribbean legend.
May his soul rest in peace and may light perpetually shine on him.

From the Management and Staff of **RBTT BANK**

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010



A crucial link to the past, and a bridge to the future for Jamaica

Lady Allen joins me in expressing deep regret at the passing of Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, educator, creative artist and founder of the internationally acclaimed National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC).

Professor Nettleford was well regarded as one of Jamaica's cultural icons, and his death yesterday (February 2) has left a significant void in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, where he was highly respected.

As a scholar and advocate of African and Caribbean history, arts and culture, Professor Nettleford's life and work were dedicated to the presentation and promotion of indigenous traditions, languages and artistic forms of expressions.

He was particularly seized of customs and mores that have their origin in African ancestry, because of their



seminal role in the development of a

national cultural and social identity for Jamaica. Professor Nettleford was acclaimed by many local, regional and international organisations, which diligently sought his advice, recommendations and expertise on a range of matters relating to culture and social development. He was a crucial link to the past, and a bridge to the future for Jamaica.

He has left an indelible mark on the cultural life of Jamaica and the Caribbean that may not be filled. Jamaicans should endeavour to preserve his legacy, by ensuring that future generations are schooled in traditional norms, values and principles that are fundamental pillars of our society.

**The Governor-General
Sir Patrick Allen**

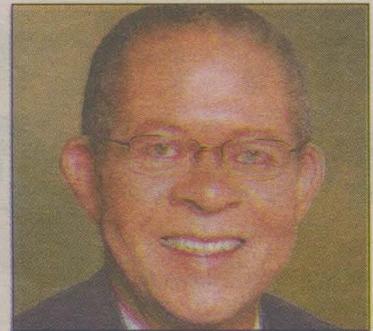
An intellectual and creative genius

'I am deeply saddened at the news, just received, of the passing of Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies, Professor Rex Nettleford O.J.

Jamaica and the entire world have lost an intellectual and creative genius, a man whose contribution to shaping and projecting the cultural landscape of the entire Caribbean region is unquestionable.

Rex Nettleford was an international icon, a quintessential Caribbean Man, the professor, writer, dancer, manager, orator, critic, and mentor. He has left a void in our world that will be a challenge to fill.

Rex Nettleford has stamped his indelible mark in every chosen field of endeavour and his rich and lasting legacy should be preserved for those who must carry on his life's work — the emancipation of the Caribbean



colonial mind from mental slavery in its quest for identity.

To his family, the UWI community, the members of the National Dance Theatre Company, which he founded and led for almost 50 years, his colleagues and friends, I extend heartfelt condolences.'

**Prime Minister of Jamaica
Hon Orett Bruce Golding**

*In Celebration
Of the Life of
Prof. the Hon.
Rex Nettleford, O.M., F.D.C.I.*

GUARDSMAN GROUP APPLAUDS
THE LIFE OF A LEADER, TEACHER,
MENTOR. CULTURAL ICON AND
THE QUINTESSENTIAL CARIBBEAN MAN.

MAY HIS LIFE BE A BEACON TO US ALL.

God Bless

GUARDSMAN GROUP LIMITED

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010



Introducing Rex at COJO gala

By Marcia Erskine

I am honoured to have been asked to introduce Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, O.M., Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies.

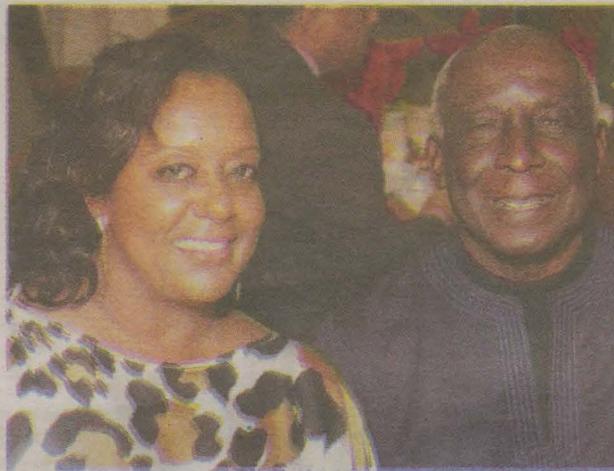
You see, this is no ordinary man. Caribbean scholar, trade union educator, social and cultural historian, political analyst, Rex Nettleford has served Jamaica, the Caribbean, the world, with distinction.

And lest you think I exaggerate, I point you to the accolades and honours bestowed on him not only by the Government of Jamaica, the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean community but from as far afield as Oxford, England, and here in the USA.

My first encounter with Professor Nettleford was in 1979 at the University of the West Indies, Mona, where he taught Caribbean History and Culture, none of which I had a clue about. Professor Nettleford changed that.

He came to class without a book, a piece of paper, a tape recorder or any similar aid. And he carried on a "conversation" with a class of largely late teen students, about the Caribbean — where we are coming from, where we are, and where we need to get to.

We were all enthralled by the clarity of his "conversations". The class was multi Caribbean and Professor Nettleford could speak at length and with authority on events and people across the region all within the context of our historical and cultural roots.



Professor Rex Nettleford (right) with PR consultant Marcia Erskine, who introduced him at the Children of Jamaica Outreach (COJO) dinner in New York last December.

CONTRIBUTED

He taught us about Trinidadian Beryl McBurnie, a woman many of us thought up until that "conversation" with Prof, was an eccentric former-dancer with an obsession for traditional dance and music — particularly those with African retentions.

Through Professor Nettleford's eyes, we suddenly got an appreciation for McBurnie as a cultural icon in Trinidad & Tobago and the

Caribbean, and for the importance of our history and culture in keeping us grounded and focused as Caribbean people.

This is a message that Professor Nettleford has spread far and wide:

- With his world-famous National Dance Theatre Company, a constant source of pride to Caribbean people wherever they perform;
- As a leading Caribbean authority in the performing arts;
- As a consultant on cultural development to UNESCO, the OAS, the ILO and other agencies;
- In the books and papers he has edited.

Rex Nettleford has devoted a lifetime to preserving and promoting a Caribbean cultural identity based on the principles, standards and rights our ancestors fought and died for.

It is a legacy that is most valued by those of us still living in Caribbean, those in the Diaspora and the generations of children of Caribbean men and women, living outside of the Caribbean, who sometimes struggle to understand why their parents keep referring to life "back home".

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the quintessential Caribbean man, Professor The Hon. Rex Nettleford, O.M.

[Communications consultant, Marcia Erskine introduced the guest speaker Professor Rex Nettleford at the 5th Annual Children of Jamaica Outreach (COJO) gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, La Guardia, New York, December 5, 2009]

COJO

Continues from P.16

No one can fail the efforts by COJO to facilitate the bearing of critically ill children from the Caribbean to New York for life-saving surgery.

COJO is indeed on the right side of history in helping to guarantee for the future a population of healthy, culturally secure, productive, hardworking and disciplined citizens.

.....

I have often said that we in Jamaica and the Caribbean have more artists per square inch than is probably good for us. It is good for us to have them for their presence is a celebration of the innate genius of our people. But that "genius" must get the chance to develop through a rounded and well-integrated education.

As I only last week told a People's forum session at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Trinidad, our educational system, with the help of those who are charged with directing it (including governments), should take full responsibility for the promotion of dynamic interaction and coordination between artistic creativity and such policy domains as education itself, working life, urban planning and

industrial and economic development strategies for the benefit of all. A child learns the meaning of process and is better able to relate outcome to effort, if he/she is encouraged to create a poem or a song, act in a play, make up a dance, sing in a choir or lay an instrument in an orchestra, as a normal part of his/her education and play some sport — whether it be cricket, football, netball or ping pong.

As I have always maintained, the neglect of culture as integral to education indeed persists among many in the public bureaucracy and even in the teaching profession, despite some of the clearest evidence that many of the people who have had anything or value of say about us are those who have exercised their creative imagination to make sense of Caribbean and human historical experience and existential reality.

The list is long and we in the University of the West Indies have helped to produce some of them but others have been brought up in the "university" of Trench Town Government yard, with "The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey", the Old Testament and the wise old sayings of their story-telling mothers and grandmothers as the basic texts.

I invite COJO to bear this in mind when it is assessing what projects it wishes to support back in Jamaica. Facilitating the exercise of the creative imagination of the young through the right kind of education, exposure and opportunity for showcasing such talents can be of tremendous benefit especially to a vulnerable child who may well start off with a lack of self-esteem.

That sense of self-worth, that self-esteem which bolsters the confidence of self leading to the giving of self to the growth and development of one's society through trust in coordinated action is necessary. As I have repeatedly said, it is possible only when we are able to discover and to keep re-discovering who we really are, how our lives have been forged from that textured history of the past half a millennium and how our place is determined in the world — a complex, textured, groping world, itself in search of certitude and ways of coming to terms with the physical environment, which we have all despoiled and degraded, as the concerns this past week in Trinidad with the issue of climate change, indicate. The anxiety is the

.....

result clearly of an acute sense of crisis about the future of self and society. That anxiety is universal. Let me quote a late 20th century assessment of the state of affairs by a well-known United States policy studies expert — "The decline of trust and sociability in the United States is evident in any number of changes in American society — the rise of violent crime and civil litigation, the breakdown of the family structure, the decline of a wide range of intermediate social structures like neighbourhoods, churches, union, clubs and charities; and the general sense among Americans of a lack of shared values and community with those around them." The writer is Francis Fukuyama.

Of course, he could have been writing about Jamaica, or Trinidad, or any of the bigger territories in the Commonwealth Caribbean. A creative response to this constitutes the social vision, which I am challenging our educators at all levels to help shape and implement. COJO sensibly targets youths in its host country, the USA.

What is more, your manifesto sums up magnificently the occasion, cause and result of our disadvantaged children in Jamaica. To my mind the

entire next generation is similarly disadvantaged demanding of us back home that the welfare of our young must indeed be a national priority and a Diaspora concern, as it already is with COJO. You are indeed on the right side of history.

I read the Reverend Garnet Roper only this past week in the Jamaica Sunday Herald for which he writes a weekly column. And I endorsed what he writes. His plea was that "(T)he private voluntary organizations (of which COJO is one), the faith community and people of goodwill all over the society need to come together and provide a critical mass to renew our duty to the vulnerable, especially the children and the aged and make ourselves something of a civilized society as part of the way forward."

I recommend the plea to all who are here present, as I often do to compatriots back home. Season's greetings and a most prosperous New Year.

I thank you.

[Professor Rex Nettleford was speaking at the 5th Annual Children of Jamaica Outreach (COJO) gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, La Guardia, New York on December 5, 2009]

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010

A Man for all Seasons

Many tributes will be paid to the Hon. Professor Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), who died in Washington, DC, USA, on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, as he was truly "A man for all seasons."

His achievements and contributions to post-independent Jamaica, which honoured him with the Order of Merit, and to Caribbean integration, for which CARICOM recognised him with the Order of the Caribbean Community, will be remembered by persons from all walks of life, here and in the region, for generations to come. Rex Nettleford, who came from humble beginnings in the parish of Trelawny, pursued a selfless and distinguished life of service in numerous spheres of our society, re-investing the valuable lessons learned from his vast academic, trade union, socio-economic, cultural and journalistic experiences.

He was a teacher, mentor, advisor, orator and critic, with unlimited commitment to the development of Jamaicans, and he leaves us with a vast legacy that will continue to influence and inspire our people.

During his many years as Vice Chancellor of

the UWI, Professor Nettleford was instrumental in contributing to the "thinking and concepts" that helped to shape many social development programmes espoused by the Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) and the JNBS Foundation. These initiatives have been making a positive impact on the lives of the underserved in our country, particularly persons in rural communities.

In 2004, he played a pivotal role in a review of the remittance market in Jamaica, as a key presenter at a symposium, "Money Transfer Landscape: A Comparative Perspective on Jamaica, Guyana, Cuba and the Dominican Republic," hosted by Jamaica National and the United States Agency for International Development, USAID. His incisive contribution to that forum guided the implementation of strategies to boost the flow of remittances to this country and the Caribbean.

His own socio-economic perspectives, and awareness of the power of Jamaicans in the Diaspora, also influenced the work of Jamaica National in the development of a formal

"Jamaicans in the Diaspora structure," from which the Diaspora Institute emerged. As chairman of the Institute, he sought the support of the financial sector to position the Diaspora Movement as an important adjunct to the foreign policies and development strategies of the Jamaican Government.

The founder of one of this country's most admired institutions, the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC), for which he was artistic director, choreographer and dancer, Rex Nettleford fused the intrinsic movement and sounds of Jamaica to create enduring works such as "Kumina," "Court of Jah" and "Street People." Jamaica National welcomed the opportunity to commission works such as "Odyssey" and "Variations A Ska" in 2006 that reflected the awakening of a people to their innate ability to achieve.

This "man for all seasons" was a personal friend, who understood the vision and mission of Jamaica National. All of us at JNBS will miss his energy and dynamism, and the many anecdotes



he shared with us from his almost 77 years of experience in Jamaica and travels around the world.

May his soul rest in peace, and may the elements of his eclectic works influence all. And, may his passion for hard work and excellence infuse the genetic code of Jamaica and help us to build a noble and just society.

Earl Jarrett, CD, JP
General Manager
Jamaica National Building Society

A mentor to journalists

The Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) joins the national, regional and international community in saluting the memory of Professor Rex Nettleford, who passed away on Tuesday February 2.

The PAJ is inconsolable by the loss to our fraternity of this quintessential Renaissance man. His passing leaves a humongous cultural hole that is almost impossible to fill, and his achievements will be revered for generations to come.

A larger-than life personality, he was a national treasure, an inspiration to all who knew him and an especially proven friend of the journalism community in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

Besides serving as a foundation lecturer at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), Professor Nettleford's affiliation with the PAJ transcends some three decades of service in our efforts to advance professional standards in the public interest.

Former PAJ secretary Clare Forrester recalls Professor Nettleford's dedicated service as the Chief Judge for the National Journalism Awards in Jamaica from its inception in the early 1980s until the start of the present millennium.

She says he was available to the PAJ leadership, consistently applying himself to the thankless, grueling task of reviewing, and assessing the annual submissions with the support of other luminaries such as Barbara Gloudon, Fred Wilmot, Aggrey Brown, Peter Abrahams and Berl Francis, among others.

Ms Forrester remembers that Professor Nettleford would endeavour to make time in his busy schedule, often wiring home while on overseas duty travel, to assure the PAJ that he would be back in time to review the selection process. He never shied away from reporting in person about his findings, nor from fielding the many criticisms that were an inevitable part of the process.

"Those of us who worked closest with him became familiar with his punishing daily schedule. His preferred time of day for such consultations was between 4 and 6 a.m. How he managed such a routine given his many and varied other commitments remains one of the all-time mysteries of our time," Ms Forrester notes.

In 1985 Professor Nettleford launched the annual Veteran Journalists Luncheon gathering, hosted by Wray & Nephew, and instituted as part of the PAJ's 40th anniversary celebration of Journalism Week.

Despite a reduced programme of interaction with the PAJ leadership in recent years, he remained a towering resource up until his passing on February 2 and an indelible part of the history of journalism in our region.

We offer our sympathy to his relatives, academic colleagues, and countless friends, and are at one in prayer for his soul to be granted eternal rest.

Byron Buckley
President
Press Association of Jamaica



Professor Rex Nettleford

Embassy of Spain expresses condolences

The Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Jamaican Foundation have expressed deep regret at the recent passing of Professor Emeritus, Rex Nettleford.

Professor Nettleford had been a close collaborator with the Embassy for a number of years and more recently was invited to be a member of the distinguished group, which comprises the Advisory Board of the Spanish Jamaican Foundation, an invitation, he graciously accepted.

The Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Jamaican Foundation join Jamaica in celebrating the life of this eminent Jamaican son and wish his family, friends and colleagues, strength and courage during this difficult period.

Embassy of Spain
The Spanish Foundation

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010

Dynamic son of Jamaica

Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts deeply regrets the passing of Professor the Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford OM, Vice-Chancellor Emeritus at the University of the West Indies, UWI and Cultural Ambassador of Jamaica. This is a tremendous loss, particularly to Jamaica and the Caribbean community.

The College has benefited from his outstanding work as a co-founder of the institution and long-standing member of the Board of Directors up to the time of his passing. Professor Nettleford has without question stamped an indelible mark in the avenue of creative expression in Jamaica.

He has been the most outstanding intellectual to have taken the arts and culture of Jamaica and the Caribbean across the world. This quintessential Caribbean man has contributed more to bringing recognition to the arts than any other single individual in modern Jamaica.

His contribution to the College, specifically the School of Dance from its embryonic stages to present, has been thoroughly beneficial, as his vision of moulding creative minds and turning out talented dancers, choreographers, artistic directors, and teachers of dance continues to be fulfilled.

Mrs. DeGrasse-Johnson, director of the School of Dance is acutely aware of the seminal role that Professor



Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Olivia Grange (centre) shares a joke with Edna Manley College (EMC) board member, Professor, the Hon. Rex Nettleford (right) and EMC's principal, Burchell Duhaney (left) at the Opening Ceremony of the 11th Dance and the Child International (daCi) Conference, held at the Emancipation Park on August 2.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Nettleford played in the development of the school, and dance as a career. She states, "he was a visionary who left a great legacy of which we are all a part." She adds that "he has encouraged us (the college) tremendously and always felt that dance was a way through which we can own and know who we are as a people."

Inimitable style

Professor Nettleford's last public appearance on behalf of the College was at the opening ceremony of the

11th Dance and the Child (daCi) International Conference where he represented the Board of Directors. In his own imitable style he was able to connect with the audience during his spirited address in which he brought together his diverse experience and knowledge in dance as a humanizing element, cultural and international language.

He spoke to the essential role that dance plays in our personal development, cultural awareness and the sustenance of traditions. All who shared in that experience were enriched by

his profound yet charismatic and engaging address.

While Professor Nettleford's main contribution was in the area of dance his vast experience in the arts allowed him to affect other areas such as visual arts, music and theatre arts; guiding and directing matters on curriculum, education and training in these areas.

Significant to this however was his deep concern about how we bring the 'grassroots' culture of the people into the activities of training, without losing the ethos and core values, which

informs our unique cultural heritage.

The college is eternally grateful to this dynamic son of Jamaica and cultural icon whose love for his country is beyond measure.

We will miss his wisdom and advice at the academic board, his humour and wit at social encounters and his deep thoughts on issues of concern at the college. The staff, faculty, students, and friends of the EMC community will fondly remember him.

Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (EMCVPA)

'A man from ordinary origins who contributed most extraordinarily...'

I wish, on behalf of the Michael Manley Foundation, to express our profound regret at the passing of Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, a man from ordinary origins who contributed most extraordinarily during the past fifty years to many facets of Jamaica's, and the region's development. Professor Nettleford was a personal friend of the late former Prime Minister the Most Hon. Michael Manley and both, during their time, engaged in lengthy, robust, and passionate discussions on matters of national, regional and world interest.

Nettleford and Manley were creative thinkers, and both believed that change in a society was possible only when persons dared to be different. It was this synergy of philosophy, which contributed to the exchange of ideas between the two. The self-worth of the human being was also central to both Manley's and Nettleford's philosophy. In this regard, Professor Nettleford was

extremely influential as Manley and his Government sought to:

- remove the many pieces of Jamaica's antiquated labour legislation in an effort to modernise our industrial relations practices;
- introduce the policy of worker participation in the belief that those who contribute their labour to production must also be given the opportunity to participate in the management of their enterprises and enjoy an equitable share of the fruits of their labour; and
- promote the philosophy of what the Professor coined as the 'smadification' of the Jamaican people, emphasising the fact that Jamaicans from humble beginnings, if given the opportunity, also have the capacity to contribute to national development. Michael Manley and his Government, in recognition of Professor Nettleford's contribution to academia, culture, trade unionism, the arts, regionalism and interna-

nationalism, appointed Nettleford as Cultural Advisor to the Government in 1972 and three years later awarded the nation's third highest honour, the Order of Merit, to the Professor at the youthful age of 42.

....

Nettleford's biting intellect, coupled with the profundity of his philosophy and convictions about harnessing the collective creative energies of the Jamaican people, was equally matched by Michael Manley's bold attempt, through the political process, to use the collective action of the Jamaican people to bring about profound change in the governance of the country.

Nettleford will always be remembered as a man who believed that despite the people of Jamaica being creatures of severance and suffering, they were also creatures of survival. Their

movement from mere survival to success, according to Nettleford, was dependent on the ability of the people to master the art of education and use their own creativity and imagination to bring about change, which had to be rooted in their cultural norms and national identity instead of the regurgitation of that which was imported.

Rex Nettleford, in the words of Michael Manley, will always be remembered for 'immense scholarship, elegance of language, international recognition, charisma, and uncompromising aristocratic bearing.'

The Michael Manley Foundation wishes to express its condolences to his family and friends, and may his soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him.

Delano Franklyn
Chairman
The Michael Manley Foundation

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010



DANCE JAMAICA

RENEWAL AND CONTINUITY

The National Dance Theatre
Company of Jamaica 1962-2008



Dance Jamaica

The front and back covers of the 318-page **'Dance Jamaica — Renewal And Continuity'**: The National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica 1962—2008 by Rex Nettleford.

The book is designed by Maria LaYacona, NDTC photographer and published by Ian Randle Publishers — Copyright 2009 by Rex Nettleford.

The richly illustrated history of the NDTC is sequel to the earlier **"Dance Jamaica — Cultural Definition and Artistic Discovery"**, and celebrates the Company's first 45 years.

According to Nettleford it tells the story of how a group of unpaid dancers, musicians, choreogra-

phers, designers and technicians became one of the most influential cultural voices of the Third World.

Dance Jamaica — Renewal And Continuity describes the Company's continuing efforts through the dedication, commitment and sustained application of its members to forge an organic vocabulary, technique and style of Caribbean dance art against the background of the wider society's history of severance, suffering and survival. Nettleford shows how the Company achieved its ambition to secure for the Jamaican people a way of articulating their identity and of building faith in a historical reality denied by three centuries of colonial subjugation.



NDTC slated for March back to Brooklyn

By Vinette Pryce
Pure Class columnist
New York, NY

It's been two years since the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica (NDTC) performed in New York. The company will return for Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7 performances.

Slated for Brooklyn College, performances will introduce premieres highlighting "dual principles of renewal and continuity, working to integrate a strong hold on the ancestral legacy of Jamaican music, movement and rituals with a ready response to contemporary life."

For the company's 2010 Brooklyn appearance, renowned Haitian dancer and choreographer Jean Guy Saintus will create a new work titled *Incantation*, a tribute to the Haitian

people inspired by the recent tragedy in Port au Prince.

The piece draws on traditional Haitian lore. Saintus recently won the Prince Claus Award of the Netherlands for his work in Caribbean dance theatre.

NDTC's 2010 repertoire also includes *Asi Somos* by the Cuban-born Arsenio-Andrade Calderon (a strong, athletic dance work featuring an all-male cast); *Vignettes of Life*, a modernesque suite of solos and duets by Clive Thompson (an alumnus of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre Company and the Martha Graham Contemporary Dance Company); and *Tintinnabulum*, a social-commentary piece on sons and mothers, peer group pressure and youth violence created by the artistic director and principal choreographer Rex Nettleford.

"Both presentations will end with the newly designed work by Nettleford titled *Apocalypse*, which explores the anguish and the hope of contemporary Caribbean life. Using the traditional ritual of Zion revivalism, a community bypasses traditional law enforcement and instead invokes ancestral spirituality to reform the violence-prone wrongdoer."

As in past seasons, the dancers are accompanied by the NDTC Singers, under the direction of musical director Marjorie Whyllie. The singers act as a choral orchestra in many works of the company, including *Apocalypse* and *Sly Mongoose*.

The Saturday evening performance includes: *Incantation*, choreography by Jean Guy Saintus, music by Toto Bissainthe, Martha Jean Claude, Zao followed by the NDTC Singers; *Asi Somos*, choreography by Arsenio-Andrade Calderon, *Tintinnabulum*, choreography by Rex Nettleford; *Vignettes of Life*, choreography by Clive Thompson; *Reflection*, choreography by Arsenio-Andrade Calderon and *Apocalypse*, choreography by Rex Nettleford

The Sunday afternoon performance includes: *Sly Mongoose*, choreography by Rex Nettleford, *Asi Somos*, choreography by Arsenio-Andrade Calderon, the NDTC Singers; *Tintinnabulum*, choreography by Rex Nettleford; *Vignettes of Life*, choreography by Clive Thompson; *Reflection*, choreography by Arsenio-Andrade Calderon and *Apocalypse*, choreography by Rex Nettleford.

A man of great intellect and enduring vision

"I wish to express my profound regret at the passing of one of Jamaica's most distinguished sons, Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, OM, Professor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies. Professor Nettleford was the Deputy Chairman of the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO, which I chair. His contribution to the Commission and the larger international UNESCO community was immeasurable and the commission benefited from his vast knowledge and wealth of experience.

A man of great intellect and enduring vision, Nettleford's love for his country and the Caribbean was well known. He dedicated his life to the promotion of Caribbean culture and identity. For him, the Caribbean civilisation needed to be heralded to the world.

For this purpose, in the very year of our Independence he established the now world-famous National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica and sought in all his creations to promote what he always referred to as the "ancestral pedigree" of the Jamaican people.

A supreme



choreographer/dancer, Nettleford was the Caribbean's cultural icon who will be deeply missed by the culture and arts fraternity across the world."

Professor Nettleford died at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2 at the George Washington University Intensive Care Unit in the United States where he was being treated since Wednesday, January 27, 2010 for catastrophic brain injury following a cardiac arrest.

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture
Hon. Olivia Grange

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010



A national loss

President of the People's National Party and Opposition Leader, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, expresses profound condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Professor, the Hon. Rex Nettleford OM, Vice Chancellor Emeritus at the University of the West Indies, trade unionist, academic, author, orator, choreographer, dancer, cultural advocate and statesman.

Mrs. Simpson Miller has said, "I am very deeply saddened by the news of Professor Nettleford's passing. This is a national loss and one that I feel personally. Words are inadequate to capture the extent of the grief I feel."

Mrs. Simpson Miller hailed Professor Nettleford as a son of Rural Jamaica whose life's trajectory testifies to the success that is possible through grit, determination, resilience and 'smadification' within the Jamaican cultural environment of which he wrote so eloquently.

Mrs. Simpson Miller extended deepest sympathies to the family of the National Dance Theatre Company, founded in 1962 by Professor Nettleford as well as to the Caribbean Academic Community and in particular the University of the West Indies family.

The Opposition Leader has indicated that at another time she will attempt to commit more fulsomely to words her feelings of sorrow as well as to add her voice to the celebration of a life that was well lived and filled with yeoman national service, deep respect for country and a genuine appreciation for all persons with whom Professor Nettleford came in contact.

**Leader of the Opposition
President, People's National Party
The Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller**



A soul of universal esteem and integrity

The Creative Production Training Centre Limited (C.P.T.C.) and the Media Technology Institute (M.T.I.) joins the brotherhood of Jamaica and Caribbean as well as the world community in celebrating the prodigious life of Professor the Honourable Ralston Milton Nettleford O.N., an inspiring intellectual, a celebrated curator of the Arts and Culture, a phenomenal educator of life and living and a patriot whose umbilical and organic

connection to the soil, which created and nurtured him, defined and actualized a personality, a spirit, a soul of universal esteem and integrity. He was created but for a time but his creations will be immortal. I am saddened. We, at CPTC and MTI are saddened but our tears are smiling resplendently.

**Christopher L. Samuda
Chairman
CPTC & MTI**

A legacy to inspire

Rose & Company Limited wishes to express its deepest and most sincere heartfelt sorrow at the passing of Professor the Honourable Rex Nettleford, a Jamaican of incomparable value.

Professor Nettleford was a special mentor, advisor, inspiration and friend to the company and its founders and it was partly at his insistence that the company came into being in the first place.

While we acknowledge that this is not just a national tragedy and loss, but also a global one, we feel Prof's passing very personally. We extend to his family, friends, extended family at the UWI, NDTC, and many other national and international institutions our deepest condolences.

May his legacy continue to be inspiring to Jamaicans and world citizens to challenge themselves to be the best they can ever be.

**Bert Rose and Lawrence Tulloch
Directors — Rose & Company Ltd**



Professor Rex Nettleford having a quiet word with NDTC Marisa Benain, during a reception hosted by former Governor-General Sir Kenneth Hall and Lady Hall at King's House, in August at the end of the NDTC's 2006 Season of Dance.

Condolence Book for Professor Nettleford at the Institute of Jamaica

The Institute of Jamaica regrets the passing of Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, OM, FJ, Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica.

Prof. Nettleford was admitted as Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica in November 27, 1989 "in recognition of his pre-eminence in the fields of culture and the arts and in recognition of his outstanding and lasting contribution to the enrichment and definition of a Caribbean aesthetic particularly in the field of dance."

He also received many awards including the Gold Musgrave Medal for Arts (Dance and West Indian Cultural Development) in 1981.

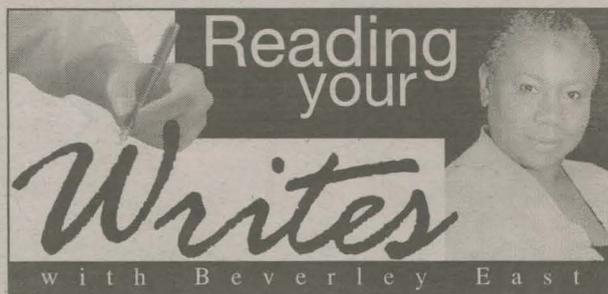
In honour of Prof. Nettleford, a condolence book will be opened at the Institute of Jamaica, 10—16 East Street, Kingston for signing from Friday, February 5, 2010 between the hours of 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Remembering Prof

Professor The Hon. Ralston 'Rex' Nettleford — Feb. 3, 1933 - Feb. 2, 2010



A man of sheer fortitude



(First published January 11, 2009)

In the past I have provided you with profiles of the famous and the infamous and I hope to continue to wow you through 2009. So continue to watch this space. I wanted to begin the New Year with a bang — someone Big! Someone highly regarded! Someone Jamaican!

You may have been a little tired of all the American players in the election last year but I could not help myself. So who bigger, broader, more significant and extraordinary than our very own Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford O.M. F.I.J. Can we get much bigger than this?

Every time I am in the presence of this honorable man I feel like I need to curtsy, talk softly, speak only when spoken to — treat him like royalty. I can honestly say Professor Nettleford is one of the very few people I have asked his permission to use his signature in this column. As I have said in the past, handwriting is public domain so I don't have to ask. However, out of due respect, I posed the question when I caught up with him last year at a book

signing event of Susan Alexander.

He kindly agreed, so with no further ado let's find out what makes Professor Nettleford tick?

What makes Professor Nettleford tick?

They say first impressions count, so I always go with the very first thing that I see in his script — self-reliance! The underscore under his name tells me this. The swiftness of the signature expresses a person who doesn't need all the facts. He grasps ideas and information quickly. Just tell him who, where, why and when and a decision can quickly be made on this basis.

No doubt a man of sheer fortitude. The hooks at the end of his letters such as the letter 'g' and the letter 'B' in 'Blessings' and the final hook in the 'f' in his name and the hook in the letter 't' in my name — tells us he is tenacious; he holds on strong to his beliefs and ideals.

The vertical stroke of his handwriting shows us that he is ruled totally by his head and not his heart. A logical, practical individual, the 'i' dot close to the stem of the 'i' in the word 'Blessings' demonstrates he has a good eye for detail and is an extremely loyal individual.

An analytical thinker who gathers the facts, he can think quickly on his feet — a problem solver rather than a creator of problems. Sometimes his decisions are made based on a gut feeling because he is very intuitive. His intuitive spirit also heightens his level of creativity.

The semi-printed script tells us he is direct and to the point there is no hidden agenda. What you see is what you get. He is sincere and completely a man of integrity. Professor Nettleford is a free spirit who is governed by his own set of standards and ethics.

About the Prof

Professor Nettleford is our Jamaican treasure, who hails from the Falmouth soil. He is a renaissance man, a pioneer, an educator, innovator, founder, author, political analyst and a former Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. He is also a social cultural historian and Vice Chancellor Emeritus at the University of the West Indies.

After taking an undergraduate degree in history at the UWI, he pursued post-graduate studies in politics at Oxford. He is also a founder, artistic director and principal choreographer of the internationally acclaimed National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica (NDTC), which just celebrated its 45th anniversary. He is regarded as a leading Caribbean authority in the performing arts.

Beyond the shores of the Caribbean he has served on several international bodies with development and intercultural learning. He was a founding governor of the Canada-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and International Trustee of the AFS Intercultural based in the USA and former chairman of the Commonwealth Arts Organisation.

Professor Nettleford is a director of the London-based News concern and a former member of the executive board of UNESCO. He served as one of the group of experts monitoring the Implementation of Sanctions and other Actions against Apartheid and as member of the West Indian Commission. He is a member of the Casts and Fort Trust Fund — Ghana.

Awards

This column cannot really give the full profile on such an accomplished man, but we'll list just a few of his awards. He received the Order of Merit in 1975, the gold Musgrave medal from the Institute of Jamaica and the Living Legend Award from the Black Arts Festival in Atlanta.

In 1994 he received the Zora Neal Hurston-Paul Robeson Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement from the National Counsel for Black Studies. He received D.Litt from St John's University, USA DCL, Oxford University (UK) The Presidential Medal — Brooklyn College, The University of Canada LLd, to name just a few.



THE ANCESTOR by EDNA MANLEY

Rex's signature

Professor Nettleford usually signed 'Rex' or 'RN' to hand and typewritten notes and you would know exactly who it was from, the one and only Rex in his distinctive style. On occasions he would put the (Nettleford) in parenthesis or strike through it. He had a habit of writing "My dear Ma'am" to the women and "My dear Man" to the men. His December 2009/January 2010 New Year card read: "Health, Happiness, Peace, Fulfillment are all I wish for you now, for the New Year and way beyond. On the front of the three-fold card was the image of "The Ancestor" by Edna Manley.



Moët Hennessy, USA proved a most supportive friend of the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) when they hosted an appreciation reception at their New York offices on January 28, 2009. Moët, a long time supporter of AFUWI activities, participated with the organization to welcome new and potential sponsors into the fold. Here, The Hon. Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus, UWI converses with Lady Blackman, wife of Sir Courtney Blackman, former governor, Bank of Barbados at the event.

CONTRIBUTED

Beverley East can be reached on writenow@cwjamaica.com

Donkey race day

The 5th Annual Negril Rotary Donkey Races will be held on Sunday February 14th at WAVZ on Negril beach.

The event features 18 donkeys, all dressed up to race in Valentine's Day motif, and set in a buzzing fairground atmosphere with high excitement, kids rides, game booths, free face painting and a Valentine photo booth.

A Jamaican bar and food stalls offering Jamaican and international choices are priced to please the crowd.

Fabulous gate prizes will be announced every half hour including complimentary dinners, tickets to various Island attractions as well as weekends for two at Catcha Falling Star Boutique Hotel, Travellers Beach Resort, Negril, or Sunset Jamaica Grand Resort & Spa in Ocho Rios.

The Grand Gate Prize of an HP, fully loaded laptop computer, has been donated by the Rotary Club of Richfield Minnesota.

Funds raised go towards Rotary Negril school programmes.

Gates open at 10 a.m. and the races begin at noon. Admission is \$100 for children under 12, and \$400 for adults.



Record Grammy awards' Beyonce performs in Trinidad

Since setting a new record for most wins by a female in a single year at the Grammy awards, Beyonce launched a new scent and perfume, performed to sold-out crowds in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and is due to perform in Trinidad on February 18, just after carnival ends.



Beyonce — performs in Trinidad on February 18.

FILEPHOTO

The pop singer walked away with six Grammy Awards on January 31 beating previous record holders — Lauryn Hill (in 1999), Norah Jones (in 2003) and Alison Krauss (in 2009) who each won five.

Beyonce's six wins included Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, Song Of The Year and Best R&B Song for *Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)* Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for *Halo*, Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance for *At Last*, and Best Contemporary R&B album.

She now has 16, making her the third most awarded female artiste behind Alison Krauss (26) and Aretha Franklin (18).

Vinette Pryce

Rotary Family Fun day

The Rotary Club of St. Andrew North's Family Fun Day has been postponed until Sunday, March 7. The all-inclusive event will begin at 11 a.m. at the Hayfield Country Club, Ewarton, St. Catherine.

Adults: \$2,500 per ticket presold and \$3,000 at the gate.

All proceeds will go towards funding the Club's various charity projects.

Women's Leadership Initiative

A Committee of the United Way of Jamaica



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Harvard Kennedy School,
U.S.A., shares his views at

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An Annual fund-raising
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Friday, February 26, 2010, 12:00 noon
The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

Dress: Business Attire
Cost: \$3,500

Tickets:

WLI Members, Signatures Boutique,
Dilcoosa Avenue, Kingston 10, Tel: 926-6916
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FAMILY REUNION: Daphne Nelson (left) with family members Simone Beckford and children Kayla, Jordana and Bryce visiting from Canada and Anna Allen all enjoyed Layne Witter's stew peas night in January, where they all had a great time. QUEENBEE PHOTO



ISSA BANQUET: Byron Leslie, Risk and Reinsurance Manager is clearly amused by an item on the programme at the ISSA 100 Celebration/Awards Banquet held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel recently. He shares his thought with his colleagues, (left) Leona Remekie, Assistant General Manager, and Elizabeth Chung, Marketing Manager



THIRD WORLD FLOW: Flow's Denise Williams (left) and Michele English share a smile backstage with members of Third World (from left) Richie, Cat, Ruption and an unidentified band member at the recent Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival in Trelawny. CONTRIBUTED



FAREWELL: Wayne Miller (left), Digicel's former head of marketing exchange pleasantries with Mark Linehan, Digicel CEO and Dr. David McBean (right), president, CVM Communications Group at a farewell soiree for Miller at Chateau Vino on February 3.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Aloima Suarez (second left), who celebrates on February 6, hangs out with friends (from left) Rilla Haq, Cynthia Massias and Betty McKenzie at her 40th birthday party celebrated at Chateau Vino on February 5. ASHON WILLIAMS PHOTO