

b/w Nettleford, Rex Kalston M.

# DOCU-FILM ON REX COMING

**T**HE life of cultural icon Professor Rex Nettleford will be captured in a one-hour documentary titled, *Rex — The Renaissance Man*.

The film is being done by filmmaker Lennie Little-White and is scheduled to be complete by year-end.

Funding for the project was secured through the Rex Nettleford Foundation.

Little-White said long before Nettleford's death in February, 2010, he was in discussion to develop a film chronicling his life from "a country boy who rose to become the king of the dance and academic excellence."

He added: "Our problem is that the film is one hour, and to put in all aspects of his life is a challenge. We don't want it to be an academic piece. We want the little boy watching to see that with hard work what can be accomplished," Little-White told the *Jamaica Observer*.

Little-White, who is executive producer of the popular television series *Royal Palm Estate* and its spin-off *The Blackburns of Royal Palm Estate*, believes the film will be a motivational tool for

young Jamaicans.

He said it was temporarily shelved but came back to the forefront after Sir Shridath Ramphal, chairman of the Rex Nettleford Foundation, contacted him.

"I had years of extensive documented footage of NDTC (National Dance Theatre Company). He was the quintessential man and his influence was across all the campuses," Little-White said.

Among those consulted for *Rex — The Renaissance Man* were: Edward Seaga and PJ Patterson, former Prime ministers of Jamaica; Mia Mottley, Barbados Member of Parliament; and Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott of St Lucia.

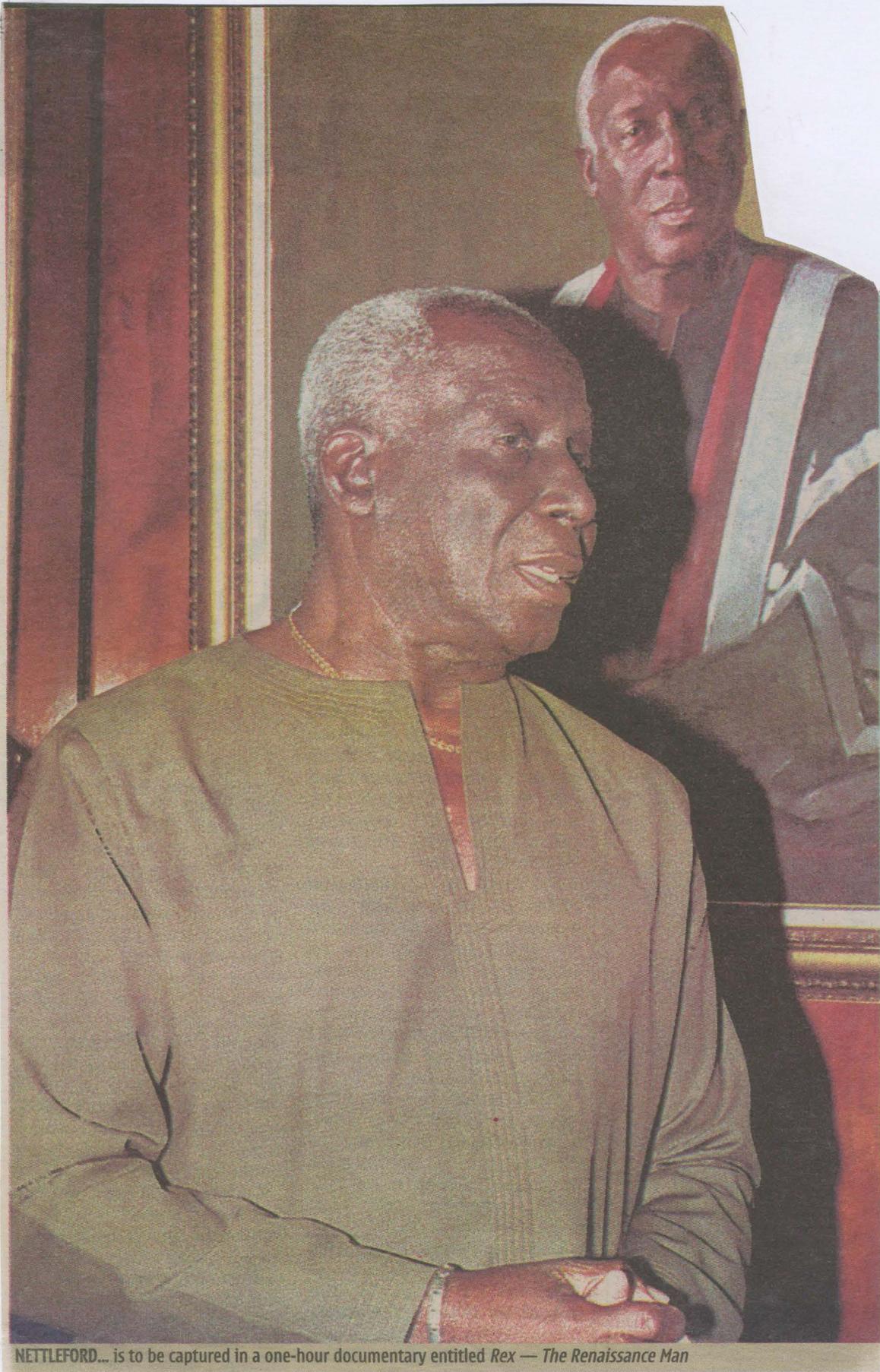
The Creative Production and Training Centre (CPTC), Television Jamaica (TVJ), and Jamaica Information Service (JIS) provided footage.

Nettleford co-founded the NDTC in 1962 and was vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

He also wrote several papers and books including the stirring *Mirror Mirror*.

— Cecelia Livingston-Campbell

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The Daily Observer Wed July 18, 2012 (1)