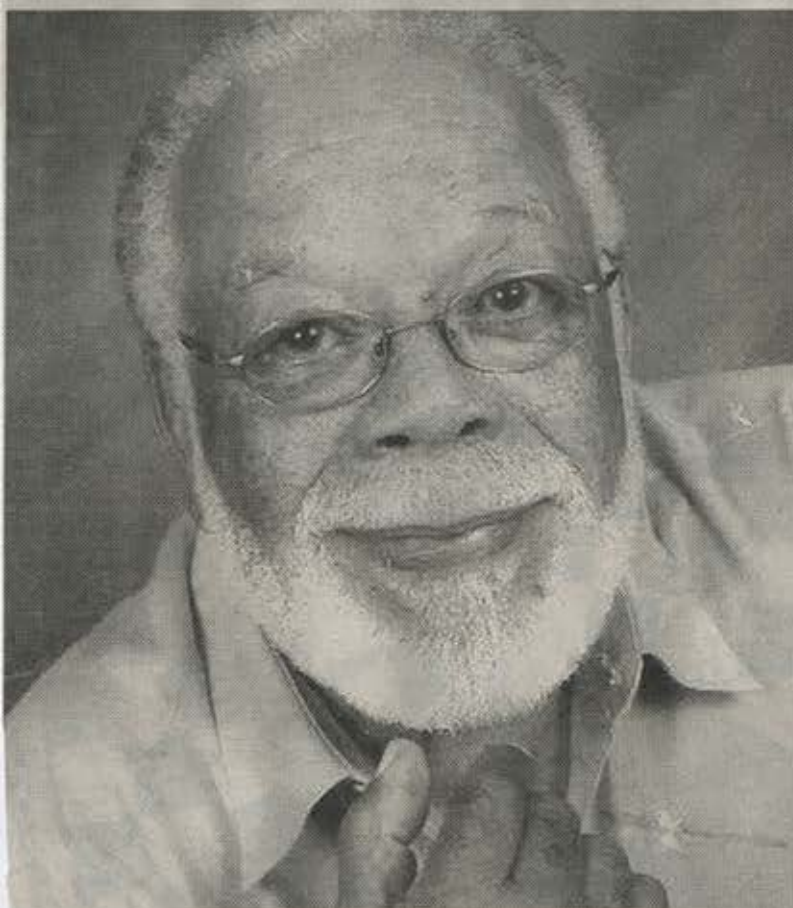


# Tribute to Charles Hyatt

February 14, 1931 — January 1, 2007



## Celebrating Charles Hyatt's life

A series of three events, spanning the period Friday to Monday, January 12 to 15 were planned to commemorate the passing of one of Jamaica's most acclaimed theatre practitioners — comedian, actor, writer and broadcaster Charles Hyatt.

Hyatt's widow, Marjorie, and his son from a previous marriage, Charles Hyatt Jr., are among family members who joined with a number of theatre luminaries, led by Buddy Pouyatt, in planning the events, which began on January 12.

The January 15 event, which begins at 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre, will take the form of a performance tribute called "There Goes Charlie!" The tribute will see a variety of performers applauding the life of Charles Hyatt in drama, music, dance and song.

Performers will include Ernie Ranglin, Oliver Samuels, Marguerite Newland and Glen Campbell, Fab 5, Fae Ellington, the LTM Pantomime cast,

Micki Hanson, Marjorie Whyllie, Roy Rayon, Alma MockYen, and David and Carol Reid.

Marjorie Whyllie, Gem Myers and Jimmy Tucker are also on the list of performers, while several other persons, including Dorothy Cunningham, president of the Jamaica Association of Dramatic Artistes (JADA), will share their memories of Charlie with guests attending the event.

Yesterday, the funeral service for Mr. Hyatt was held at the Holy Trinity Cathedral on North Street. Mr. Hyatt's daughter Charlene, as well as the National Chorale, playwright Trevor Rhone and actresses Leonie Forbes and Grace McGhie were among persons who performed special duties during the service.

The first activity headlined **Wake-ing Charles!** took place in the NDTC car park at the Little Theatre on Tom Redcam Avenue, on Friday night. The Manchoneil Cultural Group and St. Ann Senior Citizens Group led the proceedings.

# A rare blend of talent, discipline, determination

By Dorothy Cunningham

The recent death of veteran actor and broadcaster, Charles Hyatt, has left an immense void in the pool of artistic talent represented by the Jamaican performing arts community. His career spanning over 50 years earned him the respect of audiences locally and internationally.

Charlie was truly that rare blend of talent, discipline and determination, and when one takes into consideration that his career blossomed at a time when it was not popular to be "black and proud" one cannot help but be amazed at his accomplishments. The diversity and range of his talent made him undoubtedly "A man for all seasons" and reasons!

As a foundation member of the Jamaica Association of Dramatic Artists, Charles was instrumental in the drafting of the association's Constitution, and was ardently concerned about opportunities for training, artistic development and matters concerning the actors' welfare.

He is well known for his oft-repeated declaration that "it's time people stop expecting actors to change in toilets. They

must provide proper changing facilities!"

The magic of Charles Hyatt is that he was always willing to share his knowledge and experiences, particularly with young actors.

Despite the grey hairs, he appeared ageless; young and old gravitated to him, maybe drawn by that mischievous twinkle in his eyes, rapier-sharp wit, coupled with his truly caring nature.

Charlie's "What happ'n now me love?" was often accepted as an invitation to question, challenge or just chat for a while — he was our beloved "Pa Ben".

Charles Hyatt has left us with indelible memories and on behalf of the executive and membership of the Jamaica Association of Dramatic Artistes I extend sincere condolence to his family and loved ones.

Beloved Charles, you saw the spotlight downstage centre and took your final bow. Thank you for the magnificent performance! Bravo!

*Dorothy Cunningham is president, Jamaica Association of Dramatic Artistes*



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS