

# Hyatt's long, distinguished career

Last Saturday night the Caribbean American Awards of Excellence 3rd annual ceremony at the Omni International Hotel, Miami, inducted Charles Hyatt into the Caribbean American Hall of Fame, USA.

The Hall of Fame is a salute to those pioneers who have committed themselves to the ideals of community advancement and the attainment of excellence in their chosen endeavours, and Hyatt, recognized for his excellence in Radio and theatre was one of the ten inductees.

In the 1950s he got his start in radio with RJR as a performer in a dramatized propaganda message for the government.

From there he then went on to act in the half hour sitcom "Poppy Show."

Making a change in stations Hyatt became JBC's first good morning man broadcaster.

Going back into acting and writing, Hyatt created a series, "Here Comes Charlie," a multi-character sitcom in which he played all of the characters.

In 1958 Hyatt was the recipient of the Jamaica/British Arts Council Award in which he was named Actor of the Year. Accompanying this honor, he received a scholarship to study at the Theatre Royal in Windsor in Berkshire, England.

After completing his studies, Hyatt stayed in England and pursued work in radio, television and the theatre.

Hyatt said that his first success in radio was when he entered the cast of BBC's 21 year old serial entitled, "Mrs. Dales Diary."

In 1962 JBC invited Hyatt back to Jamaica to participate in the independence celebration. Sammy Davis Jr., a good friend of Hyatt, was also invited as a guest performer. Upon Davis's request, Hyatt was master of ceremonies for his live performance.

As part of the independence celebration, Hyatt also performed "Here Comes Charlie" live for the first time in the show's history.

In 1974 JBC brought Hyatt back to Jamaica where he started an updated version of "Here Comes Charlie."

He climbed the ranks in JBC to become the Head of the Department of Theatre.

Last June, 1989 Hyatt participated in the Caribbean Festival of Arts at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. There he performed in the play "Old Story Time" written by Trevor Rhone.

Hyatt is currently executive producer/director of JBC's new radio serial "Stepping Stones," and Arts and Entertainment editor at the Jamaica Record.

He is not only a highly recognized writer, producer and director in radio, theatre and television, but he is also a renowned standup comedian.

When asked what this award means to him, Hyatt explained that the award is especially significant because now the black nations have the opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of other blacks.

"We are now in a position to say to each other - thank you, you've done good," he added.

The Hall of Fame is the second time in the United States, when a shrine has been established to simultaneously honour Caribbean and American achievers.

"I am very honoured, very humble to have been chosen."

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