

# Oliver Samuels - 'the best of Jamaica on show'

BY BASIL WALTERS  
Observer staff reporter

MINISTER of Information, Burchell Whiteman, has lauded the efforts of popular comedian Oliver Samuels who has committed proceeds from his anniversary concerts to charities as 'the best of Jamaica on show.'

Speaking on behalf of the prime minister recently at a function to unveil plans for the upcoming concerts, Senator Whiteman said: "What we are seeing is a classic example of committed people helping other people. It's really an excellent reflection of what I continue to feel is the best of Jamaica on show."

Senator Whiteman pointed to Samuels attribute for self-discovery that led to his gift of laughter, cheerfulness and hope. "And what is good about all of this and about the man himself," Whiteman added, "is that he never failed to acknowledge the tradition of which he is a part, the historical continuum that led to his success and the way in which others have helped him along the way in the perfection of his craft and in the discovery of who he is... and herein lies the value of self-knowledge and self-confidence and the value of laughter that is a basis to help us 'keba heart bun' as Ms Lou (Louise Bennett) would say."

A number of charities will benefit from the proceeds of two concerts celebrating Samuels' 35th anniversary in show business. The beneficiaries

*Whiteman commends  
effort of veteran  
comedian*



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are Jamaica AIDS Support, the Women's Crisis Centre, Food For The

Poor, Rose Bank All-Age School and Father Richard Ho Lung's Brothers for the Poor organisation.

And in one of her more reflective moments, compere Christine Hewitt whose Rasta Agency is responsible for the production of concerts highlighted the generosity of the widely admired comedian.

"Many of you would be familiar with Beverley Grant, the HIV positive woman who came on TV. Out of that we did a show in Mandeville called *A Woman Wi Name*.

"Oliver was very instrumental in raising money for us to do that event. Mack D's, who didn't think twice, underwrote Beverley Grant's expenses and it was what save Beverley Grant's life."

**As was carried in Splash**

The charity fundraisers to mark the 35th anniversary of Samuels' career will be staged under the patronage of Prime Minister PJ Patterson, scheduled for Saturday October 1, in Kingston at the National Indoors Sports Complex. This concert is titled 'Falla Backa Mi'.

The second leg under the patronage of the Minister of Tourism, Aloun Assamba is dubbed 'Oliver Pon De Grass' and takes place on Sunday October 2, at the Melrose Farms and Estates in St Ann.

Artistes slated to appear on these events are Ernie Smith, Richie Stephens, Lady G, Barbara Gloudon, Joan Andrea Hutchinson, Ian Andrews and Aston Cooke among others.

BIN - Samuels, olive