

Appointed director of JBC radio broadcasting

Well-known broadcaster and theatre personality, Mrs. Leonie Forbes-Amiel, has been appointed to the post of director-radio broadcasting, for Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation. Her appointment became effective on May 1, 1976, and she takes over from Mr. Jeremy Verity, who is now special consultant to the Board of Directors of the J.B.C.

Mrs. Amiel has been closely involved in both broadcasting and Jamaican Theatre since



Leonie Forbes

1955, when she worked with the University Radio Education Unit as a freelance presenter. Since then, she has been involved in a number of important radio, television and theatre productions. She has been associated with the J.B.C. since its inception, in a variety of different capacities.

In 1960, she joined the J.B.C. as an announcer, but left the island the following year, to take a course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (R.A.D.A) in London, England. She returned to Jamaica and the J.B.C. in February 1966 and worked in the Radio Department as presenter-producer of the very popular woman's programme "Jamaica Woman". Herself and Beverly Anderson — now Mrs. Michael Manley, wife of Jamaica's Prime Minister — jointly produced and presented the television edition of "Jamaica Woman."

Leonie was also involved at the time in the popular television comedy revue,

"Peradventure" — as one half of the team of herself and veteran Jamaican broadcaster, Ken Maxwell. Among other "Firsts" for Leonie was the original version of the Radio "Vox-Populae" (Voice of the People) programme, "SOAP-BOX" which, was revived under the same name, in the present, new Radio One Programme schedule which came into effect on May 3 this year.

In 1968, Leonie visited Australia where she stayed and worked full time as librarian at the Queensland headquarters of the I.B.M. World Trade Corporation. While there, she taught Drama part-time at a number of Junior Secondary schools; recorded a series of radio programmes entitled "Music from the Caribbean" which was eventually broadcast nation-wide and worked and toured the East Coast of Australia — from Canberra to Cairnes — with the "College Players" who later became the "Queensland National Theatre."

She returned to Jamaica in 1970 joining J.B.C. Television. Her first big project was the "Nuggets for the Needy" Show. She was also producer-presenter for programmes like "Sweet and Lovely" and "Ai, Zuzuwah!" which featured the Jamaica Folk Singers. At the same time, she was joint presenter with Jeff Barnes, of J.B.C. Radio's morning show.

In 1972, she was appointed head of Radio Two — J.B.C. Radio's FM Stereo service; and started and ran the J.B.C. — T.V. Drama Work Shop, which produced, among others: *Stronger, A Scent of Jasmine, Sweet Dreams, Sandy Baby and Let's Say Grace* — a play that Leonie herself wrote and produced. She also was involved with the A.P.I. Playhouse productions having directed one, appeared in a few, and wrote and directed *What's Good for the Goose* with Gladstone Wilson and Marguerite Newland.

At various times, Leonie has taught at the National School of Speech and Drama; taken part in a number of L.T.M. pantomimes; and been very active in the Festival Speech and Drama competitions. She is presently a member of the L.T.M. Management Committee and continues to be very closely involved with Theatre in Jamaica.

In very recent times, Leonie was closely involved in the planning and design stages of the present Radio One programme schedule, having "burned the midnight oil" many

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