

B/N - Hyatt, Charles

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CHARLES HYATT 13

BORN: 14th February 1931 - KINGSTON

EDUCATION: (a) Elementary - Windward Road And St. Aloysius Schools (among others) up to Age 13.  
(b) Secondary - St. Simon's College to Age 16, Acquiring 3 (three) First Class Certificates in Business Training.

At age 16 went to work at E.A. Issa & Bros Ltd. as Licence's Clerk in the Customs Department. It was at this time the first interest in Theatre was born.

Joined Amateur Dramatic Society - Caribbean Thespians and made first appearance on stage in Comic Operatta 'Hearts and Blossoms', and this led to his first professional performance on Eric Coverley's 'Christmas Morning Show' at Coke Hall in East Parade, doing a Mime routine.

After a successful period of some years with the Caribbean Thespians and as a Cabaret Act Charles was invited to appear in LTM Pantomime 1950 production of 'Aladin'. Since that year he made 11 (eleven) consecutive LTM Pantomime appearances until 1960/61 in 8 (eight) of which he played the Dame. In 1959 he joined the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation for the launching of the New Radio Station and was the first of a long list of early Morning Presenters. While at the JBC he devised and presented 'Here Comes Charley' which became at that time one of the most popular radio programmes. In 1959 Charles Hyatt was elected Actor of the Year and awarded a Scholarship by the Arts Council of Jamaica and was granted a Bursary by the then British Council. He left for England in April 1960 and was attached to the Theatre Royal in Windsor for 6 (six) months.

At the End of his tuition in Windsor he joined the Cast of the BBC's longest running radio serial 'Mrs. Dales Diary' playing the role of a West Indian Doctor. After nine (9) month period with this production he was cast in his first television production for the BBC - 'A Book with Chapters in it'. His next venture came soon afterwards when he was cast to play in 'The Day of the Fox' written by Guyanese Playwriter Jan Carew for Commercial Television and which starred Sammy Davis Jr.

An invitation from the TBC to return home in 1962 for a performance in "Nugget's for the Needy" occasioned Charles to once again work with Sammy Davis Jr. who was brought to Jamaica as part of the Independence Celebrations of 1962 when Mr. Davis asked him to act as MC on Sammy's Show at the Carib Theatre. Charles' visit home which was intended for a fortnight was extended for three months to enable him to perform in the Independence Revival of the LTM's "Carib Gold."

Returning to England he went into the Off West End Production of 'Do Something Addy Man' ( An adaptation of Euripides 'Alstis') and opened new adventures in his professional theatrical career for the next (13) thirteen years in Britain and Europe. During this time appeared and starred in numerous television, radio, stage and cabaret productions for the BBC, ITV, Grenada and London week-end television and BBC Home, third, light abd Caribbean Radio Services, featuring such productions as 'Crown Court' 'Love They Neighbour' (in the Beautiful Caribbean) and 'Blood Knot'. The latter in which he starred with the South African Authur Athol Fugard and this production was shown on Network National Edication Television in the United States.

On stage Charles toured British and Europe with a number of productions for the Oxford Playhouse and other professional theatrical groups appearing in Award winning plays culminating in the West End run of 'A Share in the Sun' with Jessie Mathewes. His career in film in England include 'High Wind in Jamaica' with Anthony Quinn and Charles Cobourn; 'Crossplot' with Roger Moore; The Comedians with Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and James Earl Jones; 'Bush Babies' with Lou Gossett and 'Love Thy Neighbour' a third meeting with Sammy Davis Jr afforded Charles the pleasant experience of producing him in a 'Sunday night at the London Palladium in a fund raising show. While in England Charles made over 200 appearance as on radio and over 50 on T.V.

Charles returned to Jamaica in 1974 to rejoin the JBC and is at present head of the Department of Theatre and Producer and Director of the popular Daily Radio serial 'Fortunes of Floralee'. Also Producer/Presenter of the Musical show 'Sunday Souvenirs'. After his return it was not long before Charles was back on the Jamaican stage and in the TV studios. His first production was 'McBeth' for TV then came the stage in the Tony Gambrill presentation of 'Two's A Crowd with Janet Brown, a two handed musical revue. Next Ed Wallace's 'Sex' the LTM's 'Brashanio' with 'Life', the 'King and I' 'Cindy', 'Ruby'; 'Mother Courage', 'The Mousetrap' and 'Old Story Time' and the MoBay Run of 'Johnny Reggae'. During this period Charles still made the time to Direct 'The Last of the Red Hot Lovers' and to write, produce and direct three plays for Radio "Jesus Christ Dem Kill Son Son", 'Curly Locks and the Seven DJ's and 'Santa Fari'. The latter was entered in a world competition sponsored by the BBC and was placed in the first five. He also produced and directed 'Ritual: For a New Liberation Covenant" and 'Easton Lee's successful 'The Rope and the Cross' for radio.

In 1977 Charles was awarded 'Actor of the Year' for his performance in 'Stanley an Fay, Polarchie and P' which he later produced, directed and performed in for ~~real~~ with the new name 'Waterfront'

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