By BAZ FRECKLETON

THE LONG and arduous journey from a poor but proud rural district to the pedestal of an internationally acclaimed University professorship is not often traversed by many Jamaicans.

One of the few covering the course — and doing it with style, versatility and distinction — is the Hon. REX MILTON NETTLEFORD. O.M., B.A. Hons. (UWI), BPhil (Oxon), Rhodes Scholar and renowned authority on the political process and cultural matters in developing countries. The 46-year-old Professor of Extra Mural Studies and Director of Studies, Trade Union Education (Continued on Page 2)

PHOTOS SHOW: THE SCHOLAR: Professor Nettleford wears the insignia of the Order of Merit, one of his country’s highest honours, awarded to him in 1973 for his international achievements in the fields of the Arts, Politics and Culture.

THE DANCER: Rex Nettleford performing as a ghetto "rude" boy in the dance "Wonder, Praise and Love" which he choreographed for the National Dance Theatre Company of which he is Artistic Director.

From Bunker’s Hill to Order of Merit
THE REX NETTLEFORD STORY
The Rex Nettleford story

(Continued from Page 1)

Institute, University of the West Indies, Founder-Director National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica and Chairman of the Institute of the University of the West Indies in Geneva and has lectured on Caribbean Louise Bennett's "Jamaica Labrilh and... a Third World Labour education programmes. The book... which have been built into the fabric o£ Jamaican... demonstrated his deep knowl­... tion in a highly critical and evaluative way major... have produced some positive things none of... these realities and that history will undoubtedly change the... 30 years, and while these have produced some positive things none of... these realities and that history will undoubtedly change the... 30 years, and while these have produced some positive things none of... these realities and that history will undoubtedly change the... 30 years, and while these have produced some positive things none of... these realities and that history will undoubtedly change the... 30 years, and while these have produced some positive things none of... these realities and that history will undoubtedly change the... 30 years, and while these have produced some positive things none of... these realities and that history will undoubtedly change the... 30 years, and while these have produced some positive 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to be one of the deep social forms that plague the society. I think old class lines are still present with a vengeance and sometimes the very social mobility achieved in the past 20-25 years has perpetuated among those who have "moved up." There are old values which tend to negate the so-called progress as there are so many of us who are suffering from a mistaken identity: in other words middle class income has come to mean middle class and the effort to protect une's to be one of the deeper social forms that plague the society. thin old pr.

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A: "I think the Government will have to be courageous enough to take some unpopular decisions in terms of administrative rationalization of the Government machinery and in turn public sector employees will have to be made to understand that they cannot get more than the country can produce or is producing."

On marriage

"What are your views on marriage" was the fast delivery I hurled next.

"Gosh, that's a sudden shift in strategy Baz" he reply.

"but let me play it with a straight bat" he added.

"It is perfect for some people and others had better leave well alone as they are likely to make too many people unhappy. And, of course, if it guaranteed a self-reinforcing link between two independent souls, it obviously is the finest thing for the human being. But it has to be seen as a risk and some people may feel free to take it and others not".

Q: "As you may well imagine someone as intellectually qualified as you are, as famous as you are, as handsome as you are, as athletically attractive as you are, and as financially independent as you are would expect to be deeply involved in the feminine world, so what is the situation?"

A: "Maybe the world is my oyster. And in fact I have been accused of being married to the public".

Q: May I ask you, despite your beautiful but evasive answer: if you now have, ever had or intend to have a girlfriend or a wife?"

A: "Let's say I have been through the ropes and contrary to common belief I do not Plan my life in the finest detail. So I am subject to fate.

No doubt the frustration in my mind at the vagueness of the Professor's reply was crystallised on my features for he added with convincing finality "But I am looking at your face and you do not appear to be satisfied with that answer but you will have to go with it". How right he was!

Professor Rex Milton Nettleford will unquestionably continue to be a solid name in the academic world. He will continue to be invited as guest lecturer on dance and black history at leading Universities the world over.

He will certainly be consulted again and again on cultural matters in the Third World and by African Governments and in whatever time he has left he will be in demand as he has been in the past, to chair Boards of Inquiry, to be sole arbitrator in industrial disputes, sit on numerous statutory boards while being Chairman of the Institute of Jamaica and a member of the Inter-American Cultural Committee of the Organization of American States and its visiting consultant on culture.