

# Actress comes home

Leonie Forbes, Jamaican actress, singer and dancer, returned home on Tuesday after six years' study and practice in the performing arts in the United Kingdom and Europe.

She left Jamaica in 1960 on a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) where, at the end of a two-year diploma course, she won the V. C. Buckley award for style and movement.

She appeared in several RADA productions, including the pantomime "Cinderella". She also played in "Unknown Woman of Arras," in "Day of the Lion" and "Antony and Cleopatra," in which she was the female lead.

On her first appearance in professional theatre, in a Lloyd Reckord production in April, 1962, London's foremost critic, Kenneth Tynan, reported in *The Observer* "a bewitchingly ingenuous performance by

Leonie Forbes as a crystal ball trainee." Miss Forbes' talent has been very much in demand for stage, radio, television and films.

She has toured the British Isles and Europe with dance groups from the West Indian Students' Union. She has appeared in television drama series on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Independent Television networks — in "Z Cars", "Odd Men", "Public Eye", "Hugh and I", "Desperate People" and "Harper's, West 1".

## BBC plays

In one production, for the BBC World Service, she played a coloured Cockney and "enjoyed it tremendously". In a BBC-British Council radio series called "West Indian Nature Study" she played a little Jamaican boy. "It's good fun if you can get away with it," she says.

Among her many credits was the BBC production of "Brother Man", Sylvia Wynter's adaptation of the novel by Roger Mais, with a cast including Mona Chin, Lloyd Reckord, Earl Cameron and Charles Hyatt.

Last summer Miss Forbes appeared in a trilogy of plays, with Charles Hyatt and Horace James, rehearsed in her kitchen and very successfully staged at the Commonwealth Institute Theatre.

Later, she read West Indian poetry at the Commonwealth Arts Festival, sharing the bill with Louise Bennett, George Lamming, Errol Hill, Evon Jones, Eddie Braithwaite and John Figueroa.

She was anchorwoman and demonstrator for the Centre for Educational Television Overseas, in 1963 and 1964.

In an interview before she left for her homeland, Miss Forbes said she had "very few regrets about leaving London, because home is where I must go and work."

She would like to see a national theatre established in Jamaica, and wishes to continue working in the theatre. She would prefer not to specialize, but to be the actress who sings and dances.

Miss Forbes returned home with her husband, Dr. Keith Amiel, who recently graduated in veterinary medicine and surgery at London University and has been appointed to the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. With them are their two children; Karen Ann, 16 months, and Roderick Moyo, 1 month. They are staying with Dr. Amiel's parents at 3 Blandford Terrace, Kgu. 10.