

WYCLIFFE BENNETT – A TRIBUTE

It is with deep regret that the Broadcasting Commission has learnt of the passing of Mr. Wycliffe Bennett, broadcaster, scholar, cultural icon, master elocutionist, outstanding television producer and renowned Master Director for stage and screen. He was 87 years old.

Mr. Bennett was a former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Creative Production and Training Centre (CPTC) and a former General Manager (twice) of the now defunct Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation. He was Chairman of the Ward Theatre Foundation and an Advisor to the Media Technology Institute of the CPTC.

Chairman of the Commission, Dr Hopeton Dunn said Mr. Bennett's passing lays low an outstanding and deeply patriotic Jamaican who has made an indelible mark on the cultural and communication landscape of the country. His name is synonymous with excellence in performance, speech and visual presentation.

The Commission Chairman observed that to several generations of broadcasters, media practitioners and theatre performers, Mr. Bennett was a revered tutor, mentor, role model, and father figure. He was an uncompromising critic of mediocrity. As coach and trainer, he constantly demanded and often received the highest levels of professional performance from those under his tutelage. His pioneering contribution to the development of the Jamaican Festival Movement is legendary. His career was also marked by outstanding achievements in theatrical productions, pageants and concert recordings. Mr. Bennett was a leading exponent of classical elocution and a leader in the development of Voice and Speech as an area of professional practice.

Up to the time of his most recent illness, he had continued to guide and advise many others engaged in the cultural, media and theatrical spheres of national life.

He is survived by his wife Dr. Hazel Bennett, his daughter Dr. Carlene Bennett, his son Wycliffe Lincoln Bennett and his many friends and well-wishers.

Hopeton S. Dunn Ph.D., Chairman, Broadcasting Commission – Oct 5, 2009