

B/N- Bennett, Louise

# The Honourable Miss Bennett

B/N

**LOUISE** Bennett is a poet and folklorist of international reputation; an ever-green radio and television personality; an author of folk stories; a dominant personality of Jamaican theatre for four decades. In short she is a living - and, more often than laughing - a legend in her time.

Today, Miss Lou is still writing, always in dialect, and now mostly in prose. Her radio and television shows, dramatic triumphs, international performances, have brought her a success which has done little to set her apart from the people who regard her as very much their own. They shout to her in traffic, come up to offer her jokes to add to her repertoire and in her hill top village regard her as a favourite neighbour.

Though her popularity can make things a little difficult sometimes, she says, "I am very grateful and very humble that it happens at home."

Her honours have ranged from the Member of the Order of the British Empire awarded by Queen Elizabeth II in 1961, the Musgrave Silver Medal, the Norman Manley Award of Excellence, and in 1974, the order of Jamaica which entitles her to be addressed as 'The Honourable Louise Bennett-Coverley'.

The Honourable Miss Lou has played leading roles in Jamaican panto-

mine for nearly 40 years. Between these appearances she has been seen in films, on stage, in television and on radio in dozens of countries worldwide.

Louise will be at the Commonwealth Institute on the 29th and 30th April and will be doing two shows at the Odeon Theatre Birmingham on the 7th May.

Her supporting acts will include Pepsi Poet, a young Jamaican dialect poetess who recently appeared on Channel Four's *Black on Black*. Pepsi writes and produces her own material very much in 'Miss Lou' style and, is a product of the Centre and of Birmingham. Also appearing will be Dane De L'Afrique.

Members from this group have been involved in Afro-Caribbean dance forms over the last four years although the group has only come together in the last 12 months. Members of the group have visited a Jamaican School of Dance and 10 of them will shortly be going to the School of Performing Arts in Ghana for a six month period of research and performances. The group is unlike any other Afro-Caribbean dance group in that they use traditional and Afro-Caribbean material but in a fusion which compliments each other.



Picture: Humphrey Neman

The entertaining Miss Bennett.

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