

B/W - BENNETT, LOUISE

Humour, her way!

By Claude Mills
Entertainment Reporter

This is the second part of a two-part series on Jamaica's folklorist Mrs. Louise Bennett Coverley, who is to be honoured by the Kingston Chapter of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association next month.

HONOURING MISS LOU



Louise Bennett Coverley, popularly known as 'Miss Lou' is a true avatar of Jamaican theatre, blessed with the ability to excite laughter through her warm and fuzzy satirical style, the foibles of everyday Jamaicans.

Hailed as Jamaica's Queen of Folklore and Comedy, Mrs. Coverley was unafraid of using her inimitable gift of satire to first paint, and then immortalise, people through her true-to-life portrayals of snippets of Jamaican culture. At that time the Jamaican dialect was not widely accepted.

She fought consistently, using the lingua of her people to earn the acceptance of literary critics and later the wider Jamaicans community.

And her achievements as poet, dramatist, storyteller and special commentator have helped to shape and document an essential part of the Jamaican society.

In pioneering these efforts, Miss Lou employed her jocularity in a long struggle to legitimise this form of expression.

There are many dimensions to the work of this author. Her research on Jamaican folklore and its re-creation in her work have assisted in saving a great deal of the Jamaican folk culture from extinction - folk songs, riddles, proverbs and folk stories.

In addition, she has become

her outstanding contribution to culture.

The Award of Excellence was the latest in a long list of honours to be bestowed on Miss Lou. Among them are the Order of Jamaica, Member of the

Order of the British Empire and the Musgrave Silver and Gold medals from the Institute of Jamaica.

The Jamaican folklorist has also received the Norman Manley Award of Excellence, an honorary degree of Doctor of Literature from the University of the West Indies, an African-Canadian Achievement Award and the Gabriella Mistral Commemorative Award from the Chilean Government.

And now Miss Lou will be honoured by the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association's Kingston Charter with a 'Best of Kingston' award at the Wyndham New Kingston hotel on September 6.

Coverley

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