

B/N - Bennett, Louise

Miss Lou Live album launched

A fair sized gathering attended the launching of 'Miss Lou Live' "Yes M' Dear" a new long playing record album by the Hon. Louise Bennett Coverley 'Miss Lou' on Sunday evening at a reception in the courtyard of the Little Theatre, Tom Redcam Drive.

The album was recorded live at the Lyric Theatre in London by Chris Blackwell on Island Records with collaboration by Imani Music. It is being distributed here and in other Caribbean islands by Neville Lee of Sonic Sounds.

In a brief address at the function, Mr. Sonny Bradshaw, former President of the Jamaica Federation of Musicians said the recording was a new

trend in the recording industry. This type of recording he said was always forgotten at the other end of the music business.

Mr. Bradshaw called for the playing on radio of more of the type of music heard on the recording. "We need a variety in programming on radio," Mr Bradshaw said. "What has been happening he continued is that if you are not into reggae you are not heard on radio. It is good that someone like Miss Lou can be a pioneer in this field," he said.

Mr. Henry Fowler, co-founder of the Little Theatre Movement and who has been associated with Miss Lou for some 40 years said: "there is no one who has done more for our National Heritage

and Culture than Miss Lou". He praised her for her zest for life and for making the name of Jamaica known all over the world. "Her contribution has made Jamaican an international language. Her ability to be understood in using the language is something our young dramatists need to learn," he said. "One does not need to be unintelligible when speaking to be understood, Mr. Fowler said, as Miss Lou shows the art of carrying Jamaican across all barriers."

'Miss Lou Live' captures the rapport which she has with audiences. Mr Fowler read some of the notes on the album's cover as written by Mr Mervyn Morris, Senior Lecturer in English at the University of the West Indies.

Miss Lou in her ad-

dress thanked all for their support over the years. Last year she said she was asked to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London, and did a show 'Black on Black' on Channel Four, a new channel being operated by the BBC and out of that performance came the idea for the album. The album was recorded live at the Lyric Theatre with a band led by Peter Ashbourne of Jamaica and some musicians from London.

Miss Lou said that everything that has happened to her did so because of Jamaica. Anywhere there are Jamaicans, she said she has been welcomed.

Copies of the album

were presented to Mr. Bradshaw, for the Musicians Union, to Stephanie Ferguson of the National Library of Jamaica for their files. Ms Ferguson in accepting the recording said that many people have been coming to the Library asking for particular items of our heritage, and some of the time the Library could not help because they had no record of the items. She thanked Imani Music for remembering the National Library. Miss Ferguson also explained that the National Library is now the former West India Reference Library. Also to Miss Marjorie Whyllie, Director of the Jamaica School of Music

who said that the JSM has benefitted by the spirit of generosity shown by Miss Lou in relating her experience to students of the school.

David Ellis a representative of the Jamaica School of Drama, and to Mrs Edna Manley widow of National Hero, the Rt. Excellent Norman Manley.

Elaine Wint one of the Directors of Imani Music presented a bouquet of flowers to Miss Lou.

The album contains a selection of songs and dialect speeches. On slide one are 'Long Time Gal', 'Caribbean Rhythm', 'Jamaica Language', 'Buggy Bruck', 'Street Cries', 'Balanci', 'Colonizing In

Reverse', 'Jamaicans Coming Home for Vacation', 'No Lickle Twang', 'Dry Foot Bwoy'.

Side Two features 'Funny Names', 'Praises', 'Hosannah', 'Ring Ding', 'Rhythm Games' (Mosquito One and Mawnin' Buddy), 'Coconut Tree', 'Heavy Load', 'Jamaica Oman', 'Oman A Breadwinner', 'Chi Chi Bud', 'Gay Patee' and 'Walk Good'.

Cocktails were served courtesy of Edwin Charley Jamaica Limited.

The album will make a good present for the festive season, and is also a good entertainment piece for playing at parties and receptions.

—Cherice Brown.

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