

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The First International Dennis Scott Conference on Caribbean Theatre June 12 – 14, 2003

**Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts
in collaboration with the University of the West Indies**

In an era of fundamental cultural transformation such as the one in which we now live, creative artists are faced with a tremendous challenge. It has been several decades since we have gathered as cultural workers from the Anglophone Caribbean, to discuss issues intrinsic to the domain of regional theatre. Questions about the aesthetic and political dimensions of representation, language, dramaturgy, performance techniques and design urgently demand our attention.

Through the initiative of a pan-Caribbean team of theatre artists, lecturers and cultural workers, the **First International Dennis Scott Conference on Caribbean Theatre** has been planned for June 12 - 14, 2003. Dennis Scott (1935-1991) playwright, director and teacher, was a seminal influence on the shape of contemporary Caribbean theatre. In addition to the conference being named in his memory, Scott will also be its first honoree. The Conference will be convened biennially and hosted by educational and cultural institutions around the region, on a rotating basis.

2003 Conference Theme: Exploring/Experiencing Caribbean Space(s)

The conference offers a forum for the discussion of works and events that have appropriated and reinterpreted performative codes within the Caribbean experience. What is the emerging identity of Caribbean theatre? How is theatre practice changing as we respond to new challenges?

Objectives:

1. To assess the state of Theatre in the Caribbean
2. To pay homage to, and critically assess the influence of Dennis Scott on Caribbean Theatre
3. To propose new directions/dimensions for Caribbean theatre
4. To examine the reach and influence of Caribbean theatre in World Theatre.

Sub-themes: Presenters are encouraged to explore non-conventional forms of presentation on topics within, but not restricted to the following areas:

- The works of Dennis Scott
- Writing for the Caribbean stage
- Adaptation: classical traditions, the novel etc.
- Ritual and Caribbean performance
- Carnival, calypso and theatre
- Reggae, Dancehall and theatre
- Popular theatre styles and values
- Caribbean theatre design
- Performance poetry and Orality in Caribbean Drama
- Caribbean theatre and Postcolonial theory
- Caribbean theatre and the critics
- Economics and the Business of Caribbean theatre

It is anticipated that our critical engagement with these issues will lead to creative imaging of hope and the (re)emergence/ re-exploration of indigenous possibilities.

Expected outcomes:

1. Publication of papers (Special edition of *Caribbean Quarterly*).
2. Re-establishment of a Caribbean Theatre Network to include EMCVPA/UWI (with non-campus territories), JADA and other regional and international theatre education institutions and performing groups.
3. Creation of a forum for critical engagement with issues of Caribbean theatre (via website).

Proposals: Individual or joint presentations are invited. Individual papers should not exceed 2,500 words (20 mins). Efforts are also being made to accommodate short performance projects. Participants are invited to choose one of the following presentation formats or propose their own at the earliest possible date:

Paper – Individual written presentation (to be placed on appropriate panel at discretion of organizers). Joint papers must respect the given word and time limits for an individual paper or be offered as separate presentations.

Panel – Group of not more than four paper presentations, or three papers with a discussant, organized by the proposer, giving title of panel as well as details for individual papers and presenters.

Practitioners' Forum – A session with no more than four presenters addressing different aspects of a specified topic. Presenters are expected to be recognized experts in their field or decision-makers in positions of authority. Though formal written papers will not be required, forum proposals must include a clearly thought out indication of the contribution or perspective of each presenter, along with the form the presentation will take.

Deadlines: In order to facilitate pre-conference logistics, hotel, transportation etc., we ask that the following deadlines be observed:

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| - | Indication of interest | October 15, 2002 |
| - | Submission of abstracts | December 15, 2002 |
| - | Submission of papers | April 15, 2003 |

Abstracts should be no more than 200 words submitted by e-mail, fax or mail with full details of name, address and institutional affiliation. Confirmation of accepted abstracts will be done by January 30, 2003. Registration details and accommodation information will follow shortly.

Please direct abstracts and all related enquiries to:

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