

DAVID CARTY

Although he has long since taken off his boots and spurs as an actor, Mr. David Carty has been an Anguillian pioneer in the performing art of theatre distinguishing himself at an early age while attending the University of the West Indies, Mona. Mr. Carty performed in a wide range of theatrical genres from West Indian classics written by great Caribbean playwrights like Derek Walcott, Errol Hill, and Slade Hopkinson to international classics from Sheridan to Shakespeare. Mr. Carty was repeatedly awarded best actor in the University's Tallawah Festival and even made the front page of Jamaica's Sunday Gleaner arts edition for his lauded performance in Edward Albee's iconic, "Zoo Story". As memorable as his performances were at that time and his associations with recognized regional artists like Paul Keen Douglas, Carol Dawes, Dennis Scott and others, his fondest memory is having worked in the Jamaica Pantomime with the late great Louise Bennett Coverly, "Miss Lou", an artist whom he still adores. Mr. Carty was elected President of UWI drama society and then later appointed Student Coordinator of the University's Creative Arts Council, then chaired by the late Professor Rex Nettleford.

On his return home Mr. Carty along with a team of dedicated and talented performers, developed and directed the Anguillian classic "Malliouhana" a play in three acts about Anguilla's history up to the year of revolution 1967. He claims that although the play may never be ranked internationally with many of those he was privileged to have acted in, it was without doubt the one play that brought him the greatest satisfaction. The creativity and commitment of the cast to reflect a people and society in transition and revolution almost entirely through improvisation, was in his mind a remarkable work of art and he generously shares all credit for this with those dedicated cast members who worked with him to produce it. Apart from the many local performances "Malliouhana" was performed regionally at Carifesta in Barbados, the USVI and in Trinidad at the Folk Arts Festival for Communication and Education.

Though long retired from the active practice of the art, Mr. Carty still helps church groups and others who wish to learn more about drama. It is an art, he said, that teaches self discipline, wonderfully reflects the amazing versatility of the human spirit, and holds up a clear unblemished mirror to society.