

Play on the life of inspiring black hero to be staged this weekend

By Khalil Goodman

A **AMERICAN** hero Paul Robeson was born the son of a slave. Yet he became a multi-lingual American actor, an athlete, a bass-baritone concert singer, a writer, a civil rights activist, and eventually a Lenin Peace Prize laureate.

Now Jamaican-born, American actor Stogie Kenyatta brings the story of Robeson's life to Barbadian audiences this weekend with the show "The World is My Home: The Life and Times of Paul Robeson." The show will be staged at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination.

The play has been performed at over 85 colleges in the US and in Europe, but this is the first time that it will be staged in the Caribbean.

Kenyatta, joined by Programme Officer for the Creative Arts Centre, told the media that he is looking forward to staging the production.

In the play Kenyatta plays 10 characters for 85 minutes, chronologically taking us through Robeson's life. "It is an amusing play as we celebrate the triumphs and trials of Robeson's life," Kenyatta told Showtime.

He noted that whether or not Barbadians are familiar with Robeson they should be interested in

the inspiring play.

"Robeson was the third African American college graduate in 1919 and he graduated magna cum laude (at the top of his class.) Can you imagine that then, one generation away from slavery, this man could achieve so much? The self-determination?"

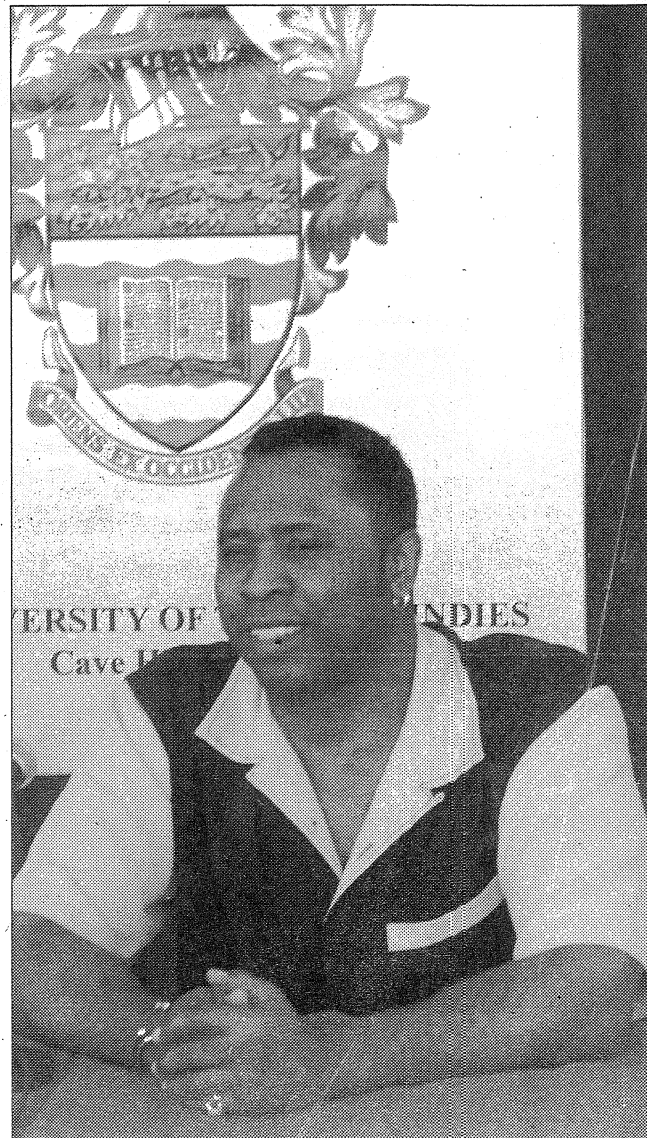
On Friday the 18th May at 2:00pm Kenyatta will stage a free performance of the play for a specially invited audience of students from Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions.

Then on Saturday 19th May at 8:00pm there will be a benefit performance sponsored by the US Embassy. Part of the proceeds from the ticket sales will go towards a Scholarship for our Bachelor in Fine Arts Programme starting September 2007. The performance will be followed by a cocktail reception.

On Sunday 20th May at 8:00pm the third performance will be staged.

Variety for the Arts At Centre

Programme Officer for the EBCCI, Carla Springer noted that the centre will attempt to create a consistent schedule of events employing all of the arts. She noted that the Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Dance and Film will fill the schedule for the next few months with both Cave Hill students and the general



Jamaican born actor Stogie Kenyatta spoke to the media earlier this week.

public invited to attend. "We are hoping to have theatre at the centre every month," says Springer "whether it is a production we have cultivated or one that is brought to us."

On Saturday 19th May at 10:00 - 11:30 am -

Kenyatta will host a Teen Acting Workshop for students ages 14 - 17. On Sunday 20th May at 10:00 - 1:00pm he will host an Adult Workshop, which includes workshop and refreshments plus one ticket to Sunday's show.