

# His spirit lives on

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## Peggy Antrobus

It has taken me some time to write about Rex because his leaving is so unexpected that I find words difficult. But it's time for me to say something about the person who not only inspired me, personally, but made it possible for us to establish the WAND programme in the Extra Mural Department in 1978.

Rex was wonderful to work with. Unfailingly supportive, he gave us all the space we needed to develop our vision and programmes. Rex's oratory was always spellbinding and I marvelled at the way he spoke without notes, developing his arguments with coherence and wit. One of the Rex-moments I will never forget took place at our 10th anniversary where he defined women's empowerment as "the capacity to make definitions about our lives and work to realize them". In those words he communicated an assurance that came from his own deep belief that Caribbean women's aspirations hold our communities together.

But with all my admiration for his integrity and commitment to UWI, it's his performances with the NDTC that I especially treasure. When I left Jamaica in 1977, I wanted to return each year for the NDTC's Season of Dance, and it was always the highlight of my visits to Jamaica when I was able to do so. It was as an artist that Rex showed us most powerfully who we are capable of being. He is one of Jamaica's finest sons and I count myself fortunate to have known him. It is difficult to think of the region with Rex gone, except that his spirit lives on in those whom he inspired.

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