



**David
Edgecombe's
Caribbean Theatre**

*Lady
of
Parham*

MEDIA KIT

Lady of Parham

By David Edgecombe

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About the Lady of Parham

In *Lady of Parham* we meet five revelers who have come together to form a Carnival troupe but settle for dramatizing the tale of the Parham ghost.

Legend has it that in Antigua in the late 1650s the beautiful Sarah Rumsey murdered Thomas Flynn, her husband's uncle, to take control of the wealth he had planned to use to educate Antigua's slaves. Sarah died in a mysterious fire shortly after and since then her ghost has haunted Parham Village looking for someone worthy to tell where she hid the gold. Only when Uncle's treasure is put to good use will her soul finally know peace.

In the telling of the story, Justin, Tulip, Sauna, Kyle, and Mabel must confront the demons that threaten to derail their lives.



The book, *Lady of Parham*, is available on Amazon or through the publishers at CaribbeanReads.com

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Productions

At the time of this press release, the Lady of Parham has been produced three times. Productions are planned for Montserrat and Antigua.

UVI Little Theatre: April 4-14, 2014

Cast: Jerome Kendall, Chanice Williams, Akela Brumant, Jelani Kendall, Manefa O'Connor.

UVI Little Theatre: August 1-4, 2014

Cast: Jerome Kendall, Oceana James, Junia Washington, Jelani Kendall, Marie Paul.

Alliance Francaise Auditorium, Roseau, Dominica as a part of the Nature Island Literary Festival: August 9, 2014

Cast: Jerome Kendall, Oceana James, Junia Washington, Jelani Kendall, Marie Paul.

Production Unit

Director – David Edgecombe

Technical Director/Lighting – Doug Salisbury

Stage Manager/ Drummer – Afreekan Southwell

Lighting Design – Corrine Linqvist Daniel & Doug Salisbury

Sound Design – Stefan Todman & Joe Barzey

Wardrobe Design & Creation – Dena Fisher & Jahweh David

Set Design – Jerome Kendal, Dena Fisher, & Afreekan Southwell

Choreographer – Marie Paul

Dance Consultant – Monty Thompson

Sound Operator – Joe Barzey

Master Builders – Dr. Douglas Larch & Afreekan Southwell

Assisted by – Deeno Cumberbatch & Julie Cruz

Graphics & Poster – Louis Ibel, Jr.

Assistant to the Director – Shanice Laurent

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About David Edgecombe

David Edgecombe developed his passion for theatre and the spoken word growing up on Montserrat where he wrote and directed plays and produced concerts as a schoolboy. He was the founder of the Montserrat Theatre Group, which toured many Caribbean Islands including Antigua, St. Kitts, Barbados, St. Thomas, St. Croix and Cuba. From that beginning, he has become a major force in ensuring that plays are now a prominent part of Caribbean literature. He has written over a dozen plays which have been staged throughout the Caribbean, in Canada, and in Nigeria. His plays, whether humorous or dramatic, take a subtle yet acute look at Caribbean domestic life, politics, and social issues.



While studying in Canada, Edgecombe served as resident playwright/director of the Black Theatre Workshop of Montreal, which gave major productions to four of his plays. He became Canada's Administrator for the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) and was commissioned to write a play based on the works of novelist Austin Clarke. The play *Strong Currents* became part of Canada's contribution to that world event.

Edgecombe joined the faculty of the University of the Virgin Islands in 1990 to teach English and was artist-in-residence in 1991 when UVI Little Theater premiered his play *Heaven* and took it on tour to four other Caribbean islands. He also taught Journalism, Speech Communication and Theater before becoming Director of the Reichhold Center for the Arts for 14 years. As head of the RCA, Edgecombe found many innovative ways of encouraging the creativity of Caribbean youth, starting such noteworthy programs as The Reichhold Caribbean Repertory Company, The Digital Video Institute, The Youth Movie Making Workshop and Starfest. By producing its own shows, partnering with community groups, providing work opportunities for artists and

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About David Edgecombe (Continued)

technicians, expanding into television, the Center has become one of the most significant forces in the promotion of arts and culture in the Virgin Islands.

At the time of this release, David Edgecombe is a full-time professor in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, University of the Virgin Islands.

Other Plays by David Edgecombe (with date of first production)

For Better For Worse (Montserrat 1973)

Making It – Originally titled Sonovabitch – (Montreal 1975)

Strong Currents (Nigeria 1977)

Coming Home to Roost (Montserrat 1978)

A View From the Bridge (Montserrat 1979)

Kirnon's Kingdom (Montserrat 1981)

Heaven (St. Thomas 1991)

Marilyn (St. Thomas 1992)

Smile, Natives, Smile (St. Thomas 1999)

Kill The Rabbits (St. Thomas (2012)

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Excerpt from Lady of Parham

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(Tulip enters. Justin who is getting ready to assume the character of Patrick Rumsey sees her)

JUSTIN

Why you so goddamn late?

(She looks at him straight but ignores him otherwise)

TULIP

Anyone heard a strange noise?

(The others laugh)

MABEL

We just getting started.

TULIP

Good. Continue.

JUSTIN

There's no continuing till I get an answer.

TULIP

Tell me again, Justin, what you think gives you the right to talk to me like that?

JUSTIN

Try this. You're my woman. You live with me. You...

TULIP

I live with you?

JUSTIN

You are goddam late!

TULIP

I live with you?

JUSTIN

Okay, we live together...

TULIP

We live together, but I'm not your wife. And, sure as hell, I am not your child.

SAUNA

Such a pig! Auntie Tulip, he's a...

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Excerpt (continued)

TULIP
Shut up, Sauna. Shut up and stay out of this.

JUSTIN
God! Thank you. Thank you.

TULIP
I don't want to hear anything from you either. Let's continue. Where you all reach?

MABEL
I was telling them I think we should go with your idea of presenting the Parham Legend.

KYLE
Just the five of us?

MABEL
All of us have creative talent and as we all know, Justin can flip from genius to idiot and back again.

JUSTIN
I'm not so sure about that.

MABEL
We can do it. As a drama teacher for many years I know we can do it.

JUSTIN
All I know is that I'm a mass man. A master at designing and building costumes.

MABEL
And presenting those costumes.

JUSTIN
Clearly not good enough.

TULIP
Because more people didn't come to be in your new troop?

MABEL
You're also a great actor.

JUSTIN
Years since I did any of that.

TULIP
What years? You on stage every day. Come on, Justin, man, let's get on with it. One door close, you open another.

JUSTIN
Ah listening.

TULIP
Go on, Mabel.

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Excerpt (continued)

MABEL

Okay, as I was saying Sauna, young Patrick Rumsay, had a thriving plantation right here in Parham. He also had a young, exceptionally beautiful wife called Sarah,

(Tulip begins her transformation into the character of Sarah)

who was compared by many to such legendary beauties as Cleopatra, Nefertiti, Christina of Sweden...Mabel of Antigua...

(Tulip exits)

Well, sometime in the year of 1656, the young planter got a letter from his Uncle Tom Flynn in Ireland complaining that he was desolate, lonely and in poor health.

(Justin moves into position, donning a shirt that suggests 1656)

This uncle had taught Rumsey all he knew about farming, and had insisted that he learned to read and write. He was the young man's favorite uncle. Patrick was so sorry to hear about his uncle's troubles that he quickly wrote back to him.

(Justin, now in the role of Patrick, sits at his desk in 1656 writing to his uncle in Ireland. He picks up the letter, looks at it and calls out)

PATRICK

Sarah...I say my dear Sarah...

(Tulip enters as Sarah)

SARAH

Now, now, Patrick, why must you make such a terrible din?

PATRICK

I beg your pardon?

SARAH

Why were you shouting so loudly?

PATRICK

Oh? Oh! I wasn't aware...

SARAH

Never mind, dear, what is it you want?

PATRICK

Well, I just responded to my dear Uncle Tom's letter and wondered if you would be so kind to lend a listening ear to what I'm telling him before I send it off to Ireland?

SARAH

Well, yes, of course. I'm frightfully busy so do get on with it.

PATRICK

It should only take a minute.

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Excerpt (continued)

SARAH

Get on with it.

PATRICK

(Reading)

Dearest Uncle Tom, Words cannot express how greatly it saddened me to learn of your ill health and loneliness in Ireland, but I do think I have the perfect solution: Join me in Antigua and let me and my beautiful wife Sarah look after you.

SARAH

Look after him? My word.

PATRICK

He really is a dear fellow. You'll soon grow to love him as much as I do.

SARAH

I'm just not sure I'm up to looking after anyone.

PATRICK

Wait. Let me go on. I say that, dear uncle, merely as a figure of speech because even if you arrive ill, the beautiful warm climate of Antigua will soon have you on your feet in good health again. You are welcome to farm with me on the modest plantation I'm leasing or to buy land and establish an even grander plantation of your own.

SARAH

He would be in a position to do that?

PATRICK

A hundred times over. If he accepts my offer I think he will sell all of his worldly possessions in Ireland, and arrive here a very, very wealthy man.

SARAH

Hmmmmm.

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B o o k i n g I n f o r m a t i o n

For speaking engagements or to have *Lady of Parham* performed in your theatre please contact the playwright by phone at 1 (301) 535-5563 or by email at edgecombe@icloud.com.

No public or private performance or reading—professional or amateur—of this play may be given without the permission of the playwright. All inquiries should be addressed to the contact information listed above.