



PAULE MARSHALL wrote about race, gender and cultural identity. (FP)

Literary festival to highlight Kamau, Marshall

THE SECOND ANNUAL Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival will stream into homes all over the globe and two Barbadian authors will be featured prominently this year.

Under the theme **Nation Language: Prose, Poetry And Sound**, 2020's instalment of the festival is dedicated to the works and memories of two important writers – Barbadian Kamau Brathwaite and Barbadian American Paule Marshall, both recently deceased.

This year's theme assembles three of the most vital literary expression forms and magnifies the power and beauty of "nation language". This term was first coined by Brathwaite to uplift and validate the language forms of Caribbean people.

In her lifetime, Marshall was a vocal admirer of the linguistic rhythms and patterns of Barbadian speech and credits much of her writing influence to her mother's relationship with language.

The festival opens with a panel discussion on the life of Marshall, led by Dr Elizabeth Nunez, and includes a poetry celebration, folklore and debut novels entitled **Laureates Of The Caribbean**.

Marshall, the daughter of poor immigrants from Barbados – Adriana and Sam Burke – channelled the often marginalised experiences of women, African Americans and West Indians, into lyrical, passionate and politically charged fiction, notably in

her debut novel **Brown Girl, Brownstones**. She died on August 12 last year at age 90.

She wrote about race, gender and cultural identity, focusing on the African diaspora in the Caribbean and United States with her protagonists almost always women – black women – who possessed a power and self-assurance that was rarely seen in print when she began writing in the 1950s.

In May 2016, Marshall was awarded the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the **Third annual BIM Literary Festival And Book Fair**.

Praised by poet

Brathwaite, a Caribbean poet and historian, died on February 2 this year at age 89 and was praised by American poet Adrienne Rich for his "dazzling inventive language, his tragic yet unquenchable vision, [which] made him one of the most compelling of late twentieth century poets".

His best known work, **The Arrivants: A New World Trilogy**, is an epic trilogy tracing the migrations of African peoples in and from the African continent, through the sufferings of the **Middle Passage** and slavery, and dramatises 20th century journeys to the United Kingdom, France and the United States in search of economic and psychic survival.

"**The Arrivants** exemplified Brathwaite's ambition to create a distinctively Caribbean form of poetry, which would celebrate Caribbean voices and



KAMAU BRATHWAITE is best known for **The Arrivants: A New World Trilogy**. (FP)

language, as well as African and Caribbean rhythms evoking Ghanaian talking drums, calypso, reggae, jazz and blues," said an article in **The Guardian**.

In **History Of The Voice: The Development Of Nation Language In Anglophone Caribbean Poetry**, Brathwaite explored the English language of the descendants of slaves in the Caribbean with a suppressed African identity revealed in the way words are voiced.

He cited particular words, idioms and syntactical formations, such as "nam" for "to eat", "i and i" for "we", and "what it mean?" for "what does it mean?".

This year's festival, from September 10 to 13, features writing heavyweights Kei Miller, Gerard Besson, Curdella Forbes, Patricia Powell, Ernesto Quinonez, John R. Lee, Ifeona Fulani, Ingrid Persaud and Monique Roffey.

The festival has added a new award for writers in the Caribbean and winners of the competition will be announced later this month. (PR/AC)



JADEN PAYNE on the track.

Jaden does his parents proud

by TYRONE ROACH

THE COVID-19 pandemic required continual school closures across the United Kingdom during the back end of the spring term and most of the summer term.

It has meant that pupils have been unable to sit GCSE, A-Level, or other exams, vital in deciding how best to continue their education, where to look for work or training, or to which college or university course to apply.

For 2020, decisions on grades were based on several criteria, including the students' ongoing performance and teacher assessments.

Eighteen-year-old Jaden Payne, the young man who suffered traumatic brain injuries in a car accident three years ago and was the subject of one of our features earlier this year, was one of those students who eagerly awaited their results all summer. On August 13, they finally arrived.

Jaden was awarded BTEC Qualification DDM (distinction-distinction-merit). He was a little disappointed, as he had been aiming for triple distinction, but his achievement means he will attend his first-choice university in London to study sports rehabilitation for three years.

His family and friends are proud of him. "Jaden has worked hard . . . It is fantastic what he has achieved, considering his circumstances," his parents Shawn and Suzanne said.

Jaden is registered disabled and is classed as having a hidden disability.

He expressed his thanks for all the help he received from his lecturers at Bourneville College.

Now, as Jaden prepares to move to London to take up his degree studies and live on campus, he knows that the real hard work is about to begin, but he is looking forward to this next challenge in his life. We wish Jaden every success in his studies.



JADEN PAYNE