

# Trinidad Actor Praised In UK

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MIXED notices appeared recently in the British Press on the resumed performance of "A Wreath for Udomo" at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, after a few blank days following Edric Connor's collapse on the stage on the opening night.

The play is by William Branch, based on a novel by Peter Abrahams.

## A ROW

Trinidad actor, Leo Carera, who took over Edric Connor's old part at short notice, is praised for his effort to bring to life a difficult part. Earl Cameron (who plays Udomo), Lloyd Reckord, Evelyn Dove and John Arnatt also received varying degrees of commendation.

Mr. Connor collapsed in the second act of the play on November 2 during its first performance. Following its hold-up the show's American producer, Bill Chambers and Mr. Connor were involved in a six-hour row.

In an interview with the "Daily Express", Mr. Chambers commenting on a medical report on Mr. Connor said: "We had a medical note, but we're not satisfied with it."

## WORRIES

"My worries are purely for Mr. Connor's health. It is not a personal matter."

The critics who saw the dramatic curtain fall on Connor's exit in the first production at the end of the first act, were interested to pick up where they left off and "The Times" critic says: "The second half proved to be far more interesting than the first, so that the impression made by the play as a whole was quite different

## Press Hits 'Udomo'



CARERA



CONNOR

from the fragment we had seen last week.

"The play now affects us like an isolated candle flame shining in the dark. When it is extinguished the darkness

still seems to be alive. Earl Cameron's beautifully unforced treatment of the last scenes remains in the mind."

The "Daily Telegraph's" Eric Shorter says that "Africa for the Africans" is a most obvious theme for a modern playwright but finds this play has "curiously little that is not obvious to say about it."

## BAD PLAY

He says the picture of the rise and fall of Udomo "comes out so ploddingly so predictably, and with so little dramatic imagination or theatrical force, that we almost begin to wish that Mr. Branch had chosen another theme."

The "Financial Times" condemns "Udomo" as "a very bad play" and says "the result is a long series of bald crudely articulated little scenes, a mere strip cartoon of a career that would only make sense if studied in depth".

Milton Shulman in the "Evening Standard" describes the play as "sincere, but wooden" and says "a large cast conscientiously did their best to show us how long and arduous the struggle for African freedom would be."

U.K.I.O.