

JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER. A play, with songs.

Written and performed by Tayo Aluko, with Robert Baker, piano

Doncaster Unitarian and Free Christian Church. Sunday, May 14, 2017

Greetings, welcome. I predict that to coincide with the publication of the Tory manifesto in a few days, previously unseen photographs of a young Theresa Brasier working quietly behind the scenes in the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the 1970s will surface in the press. We learn today that under Mrs. May (she married a well-known boy-job-holding political activist in 1980), a future Conservative government will provide lots of new social housing, reversing one of the signature policies of her misguided illustrious predecessor. This shouldn't surprise us, for we have long bemoaned the tiresome similarity between the all the personalities currently and recently vying for premiership of this country. We now know that the forward-thinking Tories have promised to cap energy prices – an idea that the last Labour leader shamelessly stole from some of Mrs. May's private papers leaked to him a few years ago. We should also prepare for the revelation that the Post Office and railways privatisations will be at least partially reversed by the next government. They will continue to govern for the many, not the few, as they have been doing since Mrs. May made that solemn promise in her unforgettable speech after winning the Tory Party leadership election last year. Who can forget how she electrified the electorate and garnered thousands upon thousands of votes in a nail-biting leadership contest that came about with the resignation of her much-missed immediate predecessor: a man who reminded us why "strong and stable leadership" is a quality that we as Africans can only expect from the British Conservatives – the true heirs to that great internationalist, Winston Churchill. We must also remember that William Wilberforce was not really an Independent, but a Tory in disguise. As an African therefore, with my in-depth knowledge of the history of European-African relations, cognisant of the huge debt we owe to our former colonial masters for civilising us, I consider it my duty to say that I recognise in Mrs. May that most valued of British values: political honesty. That as we know represents the best hope for further peace and development in my troubled continent. Pay no mind to that pretender, Jeremy Corbyn. That photograph of him being arrested at an Anti-Apartheid demonstration all those years ago was staged, and only reveals his terrorist sympathies and true Communist leanings, which threaten to take us back not just to the 1970s but to the Dark Ages, reversing centuries of noble, charitable work of the White Man on behalf of his poor African brothers. I hope you enjoy the show.

Tayo Aluko. Writer, Performer. Tayo was born in Nigeria, and now lives in Liverpool. He worked previously as an architect and property developer, with a special but as yet frustrated interest in eco-friendly construction. He has fronted orchestras as baritone soloist in concert halls, and has also performed lead roles in such operas and musicals as *Nabucco*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Anything Goes*. His first play, *CALL MR ROBESON* has won numerous awards at festivals in the UK and Canada, as well as highly favourable reviews in the press – most notably in *the Guardian* and on BBC Radio 4. He has toured the play around the UK, the USA, Canada, Jamaica and Nigeria, including New York's Carnegie Hall in 2012. He delivers a lecture/concert called *PAUL ROBESON – THE GIANT, IN A NUTSHELL*, and another one titled *FROM BLACK AFRICA TO THE WHITE HOUSE*: a talk about Black Political Resistance, illustrated with spirituals. He researched, wrote and narrated to camera a piece on West African History before the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, which forms part of the permanent exhibit at Liverpool's International Slavery Museum. His 15-minute play, *HALF MOON*, which also deals with ancient Africa has been performed several times in the UK. He has developed a piece titled *WHAT HAPPENS?* featuring the writings of African American Langston Hughes, for performance with live jazz accompaniment. He has been published in *The Guardian*, *The Morning Star*, *NERVE Magazine*, *Modern Ghana* and *Searchlight Magazine*. *JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER* premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2016, and will feature in the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, USA later this year.

Robert Baker, Piano. Robert has been working in the music industry for over 30 years gaining his Graduate Diploma in Light Music at Leeds College of Music. Since then, he has worked with stars such as Davy Jones from the Monkees, Darren Day, Frankie Vaughn, Bernie Flint and Frankie Howard... to name but a few. Over the last few years have been spent cruising many countries around the world with Royal Caribbean and P & O Cruises to places such as The Caribbean, Russia, the Mediterranean and South America.

Amanda Huxtable, Director. Amanda trained at Manchester Metropolitan University, Recreational Arts in the Community course, followed by studying for a BA Degree in Communications and Cultural Studies at The University of Leeds. She continues to strengthen her practice by studying Social Sciences and The Arts Past and Present at the Open University. Amanda served as Artistic Director of Yorkshire Women Theatre Company in Leeds from 2004-2009. She is building her portfolio of freelance directing work across the UK. She also enjoys being part of a writer-and-director team with Marcia Layne, and together they run Hidden Gems Productions, a theatre company committed to telling rarely told Black British Stories: Black British and Bold. Theatre Directing credits for Hidden Gems tours 2010 -2016 include: Bag Lady, Somebody's Son, Lost & Found, The Yellow Doctress - all by Marcia Layne. Freelance Director credits include: The Promise, by Chris Cooper (Belgrade Theatre Tour), The Dressmaker's Gift, by Anita Franklin (Liverpool's Write Now International Festival), Totally Over You, by Mark Ravenhill (Lawrence Batley Theatre), Continent Chop Chop, by Virtual Migrants, HD100 (Chol Theatre). She was recently Associate Director on Wakefield Mysteries, adapted by Nick Lane (Theatre Royal Wakefield), and is an Artistic Associate at Hull Truck Theatre, under the Arts Council's Changemakers Programme.

Emma Williams, Designer. Emma trained as a theatre designer at Wimbledon School of Art and has worked extensively for touring companies, including recently with Hidden Gems on "The Yellow Doctress", "HD100" for Chol at the Lawrence Batley theatre, both directed by Amanda Huxtable: "Iyalode of Eti", Utopia Theatre; "Molly's Marvellous Moustache", Fidget and "You Forgot the Mince" Imagine Theatre. Designs for the West Yorkshire Playhouse between 2003-2015 include: "Immune"; "Nine Lives"; "Refugee Boy"; "You The Player", co-production with Look Left Look Right; "Scuffer"; "Crap Dad"; "Two Tracks and Text Me"; "Runaway Diamonds"; "Broken Angel"; "Sunbeam Terrace"; "Huddersfield"; "The Dutiful Daughter"-co-production with Szechuan People's Theatre, Chengdu, China; "Coming Around Again"; "The Elves and The Shoemakers"; "Pinocchio"; "The Magic Paintbrush" and the original version of "The Yellow Doctress". Other designs include "One Among Millions", co-pro between RJC Youth Dance and Leeds University, 2016; "Brief Encounters@Bradford Interchange, a site-specific piece for Freedom Studios; "Somebody's Son", Hidden Gems; "Strawberries in January" Traverse, Edinburgh; "The Shoe", Polka Theatre; "The Swing Left" Unlimited Theatre; "Small Objects of Desire"; Soho Poly Theatre. Opera credits include: "Siroe" Royal College of Music; "Partenope"; Admeto"; "Alceste" all for Cambridge Handel Opera at New Hall Cambridge; "La Cenerentola"; "The Tales of Hoffman" and "Genevieve de Brabant", French Institute, London.

Esther Wilson, Dramaturg. Esther writes for stage, TV & radio. Her first R4 play 'Hiding Leonard Cohen' won a Mental Health in Media award. The Heroic Pursuits of Darleen Fyles is an on-going series for Woman's Hour on R4. Her stage play 'Soulskin' toured nationally with Red Ladder. She was lead writer on the award-winning 'Unprotected'. 'Ten Tiny Toes' was shortlisted for a TMA award. In Collaboration with Paula Simms, Esther worked on 'The Quiet Little Englishman', set in a disused cinema, for Liverpool's Capital of Culture. The piece was hugely ambitious and critically acclaimed. The sequel to the R3 version of Tony Teardrop was commissioned by R4. Esther's TV work includes: Jimmy McGovern's The Street (RTS award for best newcomer), Accused, Moving On, Call the Midwife and The White Princess.

Lighting Design: Mark Loudon; **Sound Design:** Noel Inyang and Tayo Aluko

Forthcoming Performances Include

Just An Ordinary Lawyer: May 30, 31: Manchester Central Library;
June 3, 4: Marlborough Theatre, Brighton; **June 11:** The Place, Bedford;
July 12, 14, 16: Buxton Fringe Festival; **August 21 – 26:** Edinburgh Fringe;
April 26, 2018: Cast In Doncaster

Call Mr. Robeson: June 10: Leominster Festival; **July 6 – 8:** Tara Theatre, London;
July 13, 15, 16: Buxton Fringe Festival; **August 21 – 26:** Edinburgh Fringe

Tayo Aluko & Friends

24 – 26 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5RY Tel: 0151 707 8187
www.tayoalukoandfriends.com
info@tayoalukoandfriends.com www.justanordinarylawyer.com
facebook: Just An Ordinary Lawyer. **Twitter:** @1OrdinaryLawver

