

# **JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER. A play, with songs.**

**Written and performed by Tayo Aluko, with Gus Carmichael, piano**

**Quaker Meeting House, Edinburgh Fringe, 21-26 August, 2017**

Last week saw the commemoration of the independence of India and Pakistan from Britain seventy years ago, an event that was marked by the greatest migration of people in history, as millions of Muslims and Hindus were forced to cross the hastily created border into the lands designated by the departing British (and the competing indigenous elites) to each group. The violence that followed probably claimed twice as many lives as the more recent Rwandan genocide – another legacy of colonialism which continues to cause tension and is at the root of most of the wars raging in almost every corner of the globe. When the violence visits our streets here in Europe, or the USA, those that dare describe this as an example of chickens coming home to roost are typically hounded as insensitive, naive or unpatriotic. The proverbial hottest places in hell are surely not reserved only for those that blow up or run down dozens of innocent civilians but also for those that trade in arms of all kinds and levels of destructive ability, particularly to regimes that are known to use them against their own citizens or those of other countries. For politicians to their lead populaces in subsequently denouncing immigration from war-torn and economically ravished territories overseas is cynical in the extreme, and is an attempt to mask the greed of those people who have profited from the exploitation and suffering of other human beings, such as the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the consequences of which are part of our daily lives. The least that we can do surely is to try to understand and share the details of the histories that have led to us experiencing the world as we do today, and this play seeks to make a contribution to that task. It is hoped that it might inform and entertain, as well as inspire further research and empathy among peoples of all persuasions, as well as the promotion of peace and harmony, within ourselves and globally.

**Amanda Huxtable, Director.** Amanda trained at the Manchester Metropolitan University and Leeds University respectfully. This led to her lifelong commitment to both the Social Sciences and the Performing Arts. Together with Marcia Layne she runs Hidden Gems Productions a Theatre Company, Black British and Bold. Amanda also continues to build her portfolio of freelance directing work across the UK. She is an Artistic Associate at Hull Truck Theatre, under the Arts Council's Changemakers Programme.

**Angus Carmichael, Piano.** Edinburgh born pianist/accompanist, Gus Carmichael B.Mus/P.G.C.E, studied piano with Audrey Innes from St Mary's Music School and David Parkhouse from London. His musical interests and styles are very broad. He was accompanist for the folk singer Mary Sandeman, worked as session keyboard player with the late Billy Mackenzie and has accompanied Rowan Atkinson. He performs concerts for Music in Hospitals, works with performing arts students at Edinburgh College, accompanies singers/instrumentalists, plays in a jazz quartet and teaches piano.

**Dramaturgy:** Esther Wilson; **Set Design:** Emma Williams; **Lighting Design:** Mark Loudon;

**Sound Design:** Noel Inyang and Tayo Aluko;

**Future performances include: Sept 24, 25:** Swallow Theatre, Whithorn, Scotland; **Oct 5:** Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton; **Oct 6,7:** Unity Theatre, Liverpool; **Oct 11:** Waterside Arts Centre, Sale; **Oct 14:** Beggar's Theatre,, Millom; **Oct 19:** Lakeside Theatre, Colchester; **Oct 20:** Wellingborough Afro-Caribbean Association; **Oct 23:** The Y, Leicester; **Oct 27:** Dugdale Arts Centre, Enfield

## **Tayo Aluko & Friends**

24 – 26 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5RY

**Tel:** 0151 707 8187 info@tayoalukoandfriends.com

www.justanordinarylawyer.com www.callmrrobeson.com

**facebook:** Just An Ordinary Lawyer; Call Mr. Robeson

**Twitter:** @1OrdinaryLawyer; @CallMrRobeson

