

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.

Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko, with Cornelia Rahdes , Piano
Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Wednesday 22 April, 2015

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*. *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, and at New York's Carnegie Hall in February 2012 on his 50th birthday. He also 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 has been performed in three continents. 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 recently 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*. He is currently working on a new play.

Cornelia Rahdes, Piano and original incidental music. Cornelia Rahdes was born in Schleswig, North Germany. She started playing the piano at the age of two, sat on her uncle's lap. Cornelia was fascinated by music, finding in it a means of expression, even at such a tender age. She studied music and German literature at Bremen University., She now works as a psychotherapist, piano teacher and music therapist in Powys, and is also Music Director of the Talgarth Community Choir. She composes and improvises for her choir and her own piano recitals, working with spoken word artists and other instrumentalists.

Olusola Oyeleye, Director and Dramaturge. Phil Newman, Designer.

Sound Design: David Darlington & Liam McDermott. **Sound Engineering:** Derek Murray. **Lighting Design:** Gareth Starkey. **Recorded Percussion:** Oludele Olaseinde **Voices:** Shamus Maxwell, Paul O'Neill. Felix Pring, Kat Bishop, Suzanne Goldberg, Harry Arkwright, and from the original HUAC hearing of June 12 1956, "Honorable" Senators Walter, Arens and Scherer. **Male Voice Choir:** Liverpool Male Voice Choir

Forthcoming Performances Include:

April 23, Abertillery: The Metropole; **April 24, 25, Newport:** The Riverfront; **May 2, Manchester:** The Mechanics Institute;

May 16, Walton-upon-Thames: Riverhouse Barn; **May 23: Barnsley Civic Hall**

August 7: Threlkeld Village Hall, Cumbria; October 24: Swindon Arts Centre

Nov 7: Paramount Hudson Valley, Peekskill, New York

Nov 12 - 15: Centenary College, Hackettstown, New Jersey

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