

# **CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.**

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,**

**With Michael Conliffe, Piano**

**Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, 5 February 2011**

**Greetings.** We must really thank you for coming out tonight, when most of your compatriots are probably raising a glass or two, hopefully in celebration of a Scottish win in rugby tonight. Some of the young men in the team hopefully have bright futures as rugby players. Perhaps one might become famous in the future in a totally different capacity - maybe in politics. That would be quite remarkable. To then also become a world-renowned singer and actor as well? That would be amazing. Throw in world statesman and respected civil rights activist? Then you have a Scottish Paul Robeson. Those apparently superhuman achievements should however not deter the rest of us mere mortals from trying to attain the seemingly impossible. That is just what some people have achieved a few thousand miles away in the Middle East, where some brave individuals set themselves alight in protest at their governments' policies, setting in train a series of protests that have leaderships in those parts quaking in their boots. Even though they won't admit it, leaderships here and in America are also rather worried. We therefore do not have to be amazingly talented to achieve change in society. One just has to be brave at the sight of injustice, as Robeson was, as many ordinary people around the world are. His story has inspired millions worldwide. I hope it inspires more and more of us to become heroes in our own way. Enjoy the show.