TAYỌ ALUKO

Actor, Writer, Baritone

Nigerian-born Tayo Aluko is based in Liverpool, UK, where he worked until early 2009 as an architect and property developer, with a special interest in eco-friendly construction.

With his one-man play CALL MR. ROBESON, he won the coveted Fringe Review Outstanding Theatre Award at the Brighton Festival Fringe in June 2016. He also won the Best Actor, Best Original Work and Impresario awards at the London Fringe in Ontario, Canada in Summer 2012; the Best Solo Show at the Stratford Fringe in June 2013 and the award for Best Musical Performance at the Atlantic Fringe in Halifax, Nova Scotia in September 2013. He sold out all his eighteen performances at the New Zealand and Adelaide Fringes in 2015. The play has also been performed on a number of occasions in Nigeria and Jamaica, to great acclaim, and also at New York's Carnegie Hall in February 2012.

As a baritone, he won a Gold Medal at the Grand Festival of Festivals held in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the British Federation of Festivals, in competition with other singers and instrumentalist from all over the UK. He appeared as soloist at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, accompanied by the Hallé Orchestra for the opening of the Annual Co-Operative Congress. He has also performed lead roles in various operas and stage musicals including *Nabucco*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Anything Goes*. Oratorio roles have included *Faure's Requiem, Brahms Requiem*, *Samson, C Minor Mass, Carmina Burana, Elijah* and *The Messiah*. His rendition of GO DOWN, MOSES, recorded on his CD titled RECALLING ROBESON, is featured as the song of the month for July 2008 on the US-based Labor Notes website.

Tayo researched, wrote and narrated to camera a film on the history of West Africa before the TransAtlantic Slave Trade, which forms part of the permanent exhibit at the National Museum Liverpool's International Slavery Museum. Published writings include articles for the UK's The Guardian, Morning Star, NERVE Magazine, Liverpool Daily Post and Echo; North West Chronicle; Punch and ThisDay Newpapers in Nigeria, and modernghana.com. He has also written and performed a lecture-cum-concert titled FROM BLACK AFRICA TO THE WHITE HOUSE, which deals with African History, and particularly Black Resistance to White domination, illustrating it with live renditions of Black Spirituals. This has also been performed on three continents.

With The Maltings Theatre, Berwick-upon-Tweed, he developed a new piece titled WHAT HAPPENS? featuring the writings of African American Langston Hughes (with songs from the era), performed to live jazz accompaniment. In October 2013 he produced the inaugural Paul Robeson Art Is A Weapon Festival in Covent Garden, London, which featured speakers and performers from as far afield as South Africa and Canada.

As writer-on- attachment with the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse theatres, he developed a new play titled JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER which premieres at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2016.

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