

CALL MR. ROBESON: A life, with songs.
Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko,
With Michael Conliffe, Piano
Arc Theatre, Trowbridge, Saturday 5th March, 2011

Greetings. The London School of Economics is seen as one of the shining examples of British education at its best. The small embarrassment of them being exposed for taking money from the Gaddafi family, even if symptomatic of potentially dodgy dealings at government level won't deter our leaders from using the oft-quoted expression – “the best in the world” to explain why people come from all over the world continue to come here for education. In the not-so-distant past, such education used to be theoretically available to everybody in this society. Not so any longer, with huge rises in tuition fees, which only the richest in society (and foreign dictators' sons and their like) can afford. People all over the UK are rising up in protest against the government's policies, which they say exacerbates inequalities here. Students. Trade Unionists. Even women! International Women's Day (March 8th) is being marked by a women's march next weekend. They are arguing, among other things, that cuts to services endanger children and families. That money should be spent on caring, not killing. Paul Robeson, I am sure, would have joined their march and lent his deep voice to theirs. He understood that women had always been, and always will be great fighters for freedom and justice worldwide, and paid tribute to those who fought so that his people could be free. I hope he inspires us to lend our voices to theirs too. Please enjoy the show.