

It is interesting that both the British Prime Minister and the Scottish First Minister are descendants of immigrants from former British colonies: India, Pakistan, Kenya and Tanzania. The families' life stories would make epic long-running film sagas worthy of the biggest film production houses. And however long and successful such series are, there will be inevitable omissions, as not everything can fit into a neat story, and it also depends on who controls the narrative. Migration stories are indeed dominating the airwaves presently, and sadly, much of it is to do with the hundreds and thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean and the Channel. Southern European and British commentators and politicians alike are reserving much of their criticism for refugees, immigrants and people-smugglers, and not on the conditions that cause people to flee their homes in the first place. That is deliberate, because an examination of the causes would lead directly back to these shores: to the history of slavery and colonisation and to contemporary trade practices: from continuing exploitation of human and natural resources to the arms trade, which sets other regions alight. The "promotion of democracy" abroad is also selectively discussed, as witnessed by the readiness with which Western arms are used to install or change regimes, or how vocal or silent Western capitals are when regimes in other parts of the world change. For example, indignation is being expressed at the coups d'état that have removed some apparently democratically elected heads of state in the Sahel region of Africa. The fact that the coups are popular with the general populace who saw those leaders as representations of neo-colonialism receives less attention than the alleged danger of those simple-minded people coming under the influence of Russia and China. It is also better not to talk about the fact that the present Ukraine War and government can be traced back to a Western-instigated coup in 2014. That is inconvenient. Also inconvenient is the fact that in Pakistan, the incredibly popular Prime Minister, Imran Khan (a great cricketer in his time) was deposed on instruction from the USA for among other things refusing to side with the West against Russia in the ongoing conflict, and is currently in prison, with his life in danger. That Messrs Sunak and Yousaf remain silent about this single troubling issue confirms that coups have happened here too, and regardless of the colour of their skin, our leaders serve not the people, but a global elite whose greed neither knows nor respects boundaries, people or the planet.

**Tayo Aluko, Writer, Performer.** Tayo was born in Nigeria, worked as an architect in Liverpool for many years. He has fronted orchestras as baritone soloist in concert halls, and has also performed lead roles in opera, musicals and oratorio. His first play, *CALL MR ROBESON* has won numerous awards at festivals in the UK and Canada, and continues to be performed after 16 years. He delivers a number of lecture/concerts and talks on Black Political Resistance using art and song. 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 has developed a piece titled *WHAT HAPPENS?* featuring the writings of African American writer Langston Hughes, for performance with live jazz accompaniment. He has been published in *The Guardian*, *The Morning Star*, *NERVE Magazine*, *Modern Ghana*, *Searchlight Magazine*, *Counterfire* and *Counterpunch*. His latest production is a radio play, *PAUL ROBESON'S LOVE SONG*, recorded during lockdown with actors from the USA and Canada, and now streaming online. He has recently had two poems published, and developed one of them – "*GREATNESS*" *IN A TIME OF COVID* – into an online international performance and mapping project and a workshop examining colonial history. Talks he gives include *ART AS A WEAPON – SOME PAN-AFRICANIST EXAMPLES*, a survey of artists in the African Diaspora. His third one-man musical play (a work in progress), is *COLERIDGE-TAYLOR OF FREETOWN*, inspired by the life and music of the Black British Composer, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. He is also working on a screenplay telling the story of Pastor Daniels Ekarte (d. 1964), known as the African Saint of Liverpool.

**Samuel Howley, Piano.** Born in the Rhondda Valley, South Wales, Samuel studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama before embarking on a career that includes composing, conducting, teaching and performing. As an accompanist, he has worked with David Campbell, Paul Basler, Rebecca Evans, WNO and many others. His compositions have been played on BBC Radio 3, Argentinian Classical Radio, Radio Orkney and Radio Poznan. He now lives in Fife, Scotland.

**Just An Ordinary Lawyer** was premiered at the Edinburgh  
Fringe on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 by Tayo Aluko,  
with Angus Carmichael on piano

Directed by **Amanda Huxtable**  
Designed by **Emma Williams**  
Dramaturgy: **Esther Wilson**  
Lighting Design: **Mark Loudon**  
Sound Design: **Noel Inyang & Tayo Aluko**

**Future Performances Include:**

**Till 19 August** (odd dates only) **Call Mr. Robeson**  
@ **Edinburgh Fringe**

**Till 20 August** (even dates only) **Just An Ordinary**  
**Lawyer @ Edinburgh Fringe**

**26 September: Dodging Bullets**, in #BlackBoyJoyGone,  
for Blackfest @ Unity Theatre, **Liverpool**

**29 September: Call Mr. Robeson.** Royal Exchange Theatre,  
Manchester, for UNISON Black Workers NW

**12 October Just An Ordinary Lawyer.**

For Law Society of Scotland, EICC, **Edinburgh**

**14 October. Just An Ordinary Lawyer**

Tullynessle Hall, **Aberdeenshire**

**20 October. Just An Ordinary Lawyer**

St. George's Hall, **Liverpool**

**7 November: Call Mr. Robeson. St. Ives** Library, Cambs

**8 November: Call Mr. Robeson. St. Neots** Library, Cambs

**Tayo Aluko & Friends**

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**C Arts**

**AND**

**TAYO ALUKO & FRIENDS**  
present

# JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER

— (?) —

**A PLAY, WITH SONGS**

Written and performed by **Tayo Aluko**,  
with **Samuel Howley**, piano

**C Aurora Studio**

**Week 2, Edinburgh Fringe 6-20 August, 2023**