**Call Mr. Robeson - A life, with songs.**

**Written and Performed by Tayo Aluko, With Live Piano Accompaniment**

**Directed by Olusola Oyeleye, Designed by Phil Newman**

**LONG COPY (199 words. First paragraph (26 words) and last paragraph (38 words) are optional):**

*“They say I’m meddling in the foreign affairs of the United States Government. Now, that’s too bad, ‘cause I’m going to have to continue to meddle...”*

Paul Robeson is a world-famous actor, singer and civil rights campaigner. When over the years he gets progressively too radical and outspoken for the establishment's liking, he is branded a traitor to his country, harassed, and denied opportunities to perform or travel. Just as physical, emotional and mental stress threaten to push him over the fine line between genius and madness, he is summoned to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee, to give the most difficult and important performance of his career.

This roller-coaster journey through Robeson’s remarkable and eventful life highlights how his pioneering and heroic (but largely forgotten) political activism led many to describe him as the forerunner of the civil rights movement. It features much fiery oratory and some of his famous songs, including a dramatic rendition of *Ol’ Man River*.

Tayo Aluko revives one of the 20th Century’s most impressive but overlooked figures in this powerful, compelling tour-de-force performance, which was seen at New York’s Carnegie Hall in February 2012, and in London’s West End in October 2013.

**SHORT COPY (93 words in first two paragraphs, with an additional 28 in optional last paragraph):**

Paul Robeson is a world-famous actor, singer and civil rights campaigner. When he gets too radical and outspoken for the establishment's liking, he is branded a traitor to his country, is harassed, and denied opportunities to perform or travel.

This roller-coaster journey through Robeson’s remarkable life highlights how his pioneering and heroic political activism led many to describe him as the forerunner of the civil rights movement. It features some famous songs (including a dramatic rendition of *Ol’ Man River*), speeches, and a spectacularly defiant testimony to the Senate House Un-American Activities Committee.

One of the 20th Century’s most impressive but overlooked figures is revived in this powerful, compelling tour-de-force performance, performed at New York’s Carnegie Hall in February 2012.

**40 – WORD COPY**

A rollercoaster journey through African-American actor and singer Paul Robeson’s remarkable life, highlighting his pioneering and heroic political activism. Features *Ol’ Man River* and other famous songs, much fiery oratory, and a defiant testimony to the House Un-American Activities Committee.

**PRESS QUOTES AND IMAGES ON NEXT SHEET**

**AWARDS:**

**Winner, Outstanding Theatre Award, Brighton Fringe, June 2016
Winner, Best Musical Performance, Atlantic Fringe, Halifax, Nova Scotia, September 2013
Winner, Best Solo Show, Stratford-upon-Avon Fringe, June 2013
Triple Winner (Impresario Award, Best Actor, Best Original Work) London Fringe, Canada, June 2012**

**DOUBLE WINNER**: **Argus Angel Award for Artistic Excellence & Best Male Performer
BRIGHTON FESTIVAL FRINGE, MAY 2008**

**PRESS QUOTES**

“First-rate ... an admirable introduction to a great pioneering performer" 4 Stars [The Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/2011/jan/10/call-mr-robeson-review)

"A stunning piece of musical theatre.... high quality drama, first class singing"
[Fringe Review, Edinburgh Fringe, 2010](http://www.fringereview.co.uk/fringeReview/3454.html)

"A brilliantly put together history lesson delivered as art." [*Dirt & Candy*](http://dirtandcandy.com/2015/03/review-call-mr-robeson-a-life-with-songs/)

"Never less than utterly believable" [British Theatre Guide](http://www.britishtheatreguide.info/otherresources/fringe/fringe10-28.htm#robeson)
"Simply told but immensely powerful" [The Scotsman](http://www.edinburgh-festivals.com/viewreview.aspx?id=2406)

“A must-see experience, a treasure of a show. TOP PICK!” [*DC Theater Scene*](http://dctheatrescene.com/2009/11/23/call-mr-robeson-a-life-with-songs-2/)

**Age recommendation:** 12+ No violence, bad language, nudity or sexual content.

**Show length:** 80 minutes (no interval)

 **Trailer on youtube:** <https://youtu.be/FjoqM-VzG5E>

 **Trailer (Hi-Res, mp4)** <https://vimeo.com/559918538>

**Download Robeson photos** (strongly recommended due to face recognition): from [Hi-Res](https://www.dropbox.com/s/4d5kqrkovityuut/Robeson_Photo_large%20by%20Yousuf%20Karsh.jpg?dl=0) or [Lo-Res](https://www.dropbox.com/s/v96m3qp6u6sul8j/Robeson_image_bw_small.jpg?dl=0)
**Download performance photos** from http://www.tayoalukoandfriends.com/robeson/media/photos/. These are good as additional shots as required.