

The USA is once again the subject of the incredulous gaze of much of the rest of the world, as the head of a criminal enterprise (the Trump organisation has been convicted of crimes, if not the man himself, amazingly) is the frontrunner for the top job, for a second term. His main rival, the incumbent, according to the loyal followers of the orange man, is using the powers of his Department of Justice not just to prosecute #45, but seemingly to prevent his own son from receiving true justice for a litany of crimes committed while his father was vice president. If Biden Jr. is properly convicted, it is almost certain that his father will effectively be exposed as being head of a crime family. Here in Britain, even if the current prime minister is not as obviously criminal and corrupt as his predecessor, question marks regularly come up about how his and his wife's fortunes are enhanced by government policies. Scotland's most recent first minister and her husband (who also happened to have been the last chief executive of the ruling Scottish Nationalist Party) are I believe currently under investigation for criminal activity. The country I hail from - Nigeria - has a recently-installed president who is said to have a drug-dealing past in America which may make state visits to that country 'problematic.' Then there is Israel, whose prime minister is now at the head (and mercy) of a fascist administration, and doing their bidding even when that means violently suppressing protests by their own citizens, all in a bid (allegedly) to ensure that he is not properly convicted and sentenced for crimes of corruption. A survey of other countries around the world is likely to see a continuation of this pattern of rule of citizens by people of questionable integrity. How such people keep getting elected (sometimes legitimately, sometimes not) is only a mystery to those who refuse to see that big-money interests control media worldwide, and ensure that genuine voices of the people, those who intend to serve the many, the underprivileged or our planet, are not heard, and are actively prevented from assuming power, even if that means that demonising or criminalising them in the process. Paul Robeson was demonised in his time, and his story buried - and remains so to this day - by the US Establishment, because of his messages of peace and socialism. As his country prepares for another round of elections, let us not believe that there is no other choice than between two alleged criminals. I recommend that people do some research into another person the establishment will seek to bury from public consciousness - the would-be Green Party candidate, Dr. Cornel West.

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. *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.

Call Mr. Robeson was premiered at C-Soco at the Edinburgh Fringe on August 12, 2007, with Michael Conliffe accompanying Tayo Aluko then, and for several years thereafter.

Director and Dramaturge: Olusola Oyeleye.

Set & Costume Designer: Phil Newman.

Sound Design: David Darlington & Liam McDermott.

Sound Engineering: Derek Murray.

Lighting Design: Gareth Starkey.

Recorded Percussion: Oludele Olaseinde

Voices: Shamus Maxwell, Paul O'Neill, Felix Pring, Kat Bishop, Suzanne Goldberg, Harry Arkwright.

Some voices in the HUAC scene used from

Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?

by Eric Bentley, recorded by L A Theatre Works.

Male Voice Choir: Liverpool Male Voice Choir

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

29 September Call Mr. Robeson, Royal Exchange Theatre,

Manchester (private, for Unison Black Workers)

26 September: Dodging Bullets, in #BlackBoyJoyGone, for Blackfest

@ Unity Theatre, Liverpool

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

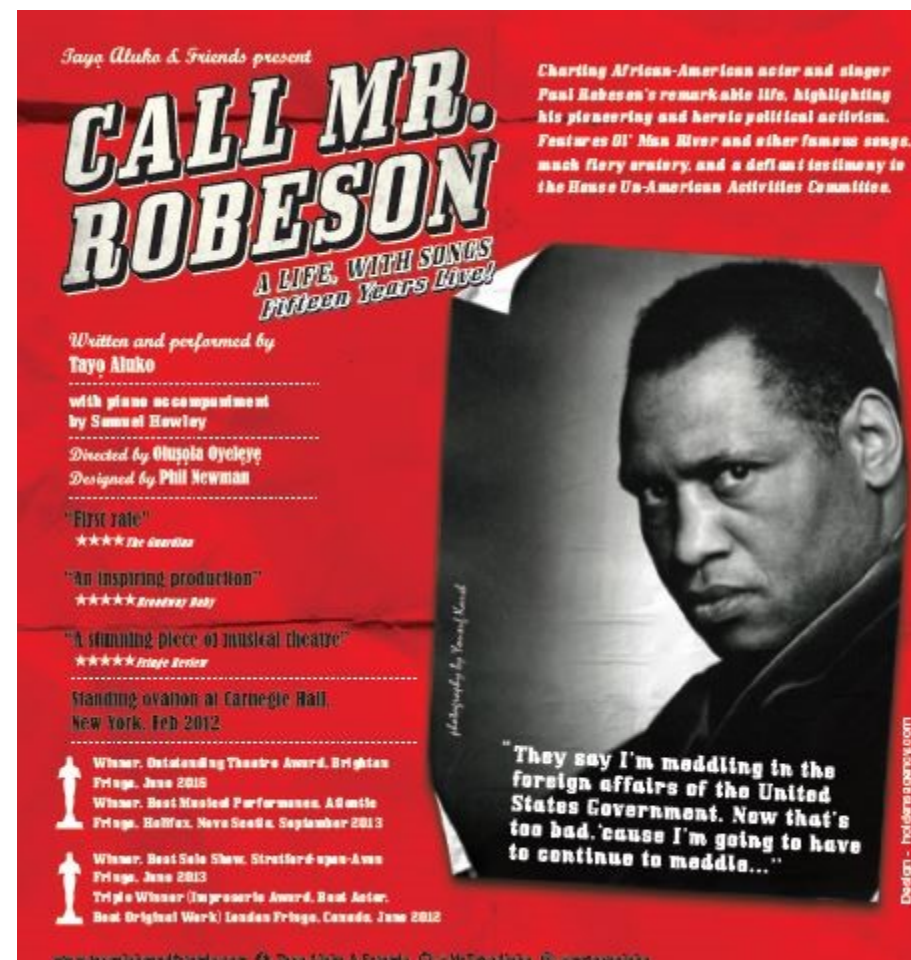
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Written and performed by Tayo Aluko
Accompanied by Samuel Howley

C Aurora
Edinburgh Fringe, 5-19 Augst, 2023