

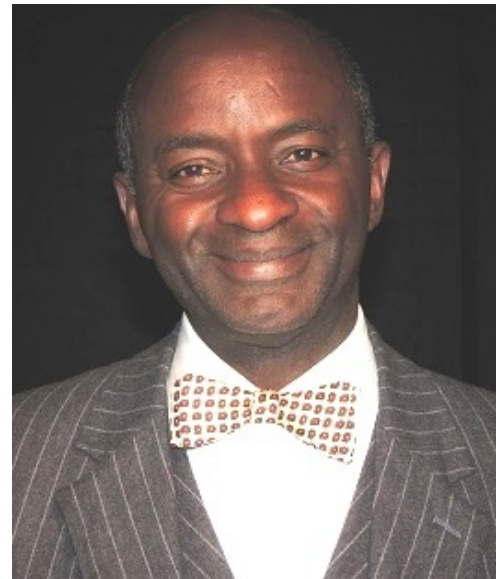
TAYO ALUKO

Actor, Writer, Baritone

May 2020

Nigerian-born Tayo Aluko is based in Liverpool, UK.

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 singers and instrumentalists from all over the UK. He appeared as soloist at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, accompanied by the Hallé Orchestra, and 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*.

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. In September 2019, he was one of ten *People of Letters*: "leading writers of colour" commissioned to write and perform pieces in response to selected objects held in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, forming the inaugural online exhibition of the *Museum of Colour*. 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 Newspapers* 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. He researched, wrote and read one of five essays for BBC Radio 3, broadcast in April 2020 titled *Paul Robeson in Five Songs*.

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. He also arranged a tour of England for another US-based portraying Dr. King and Nelson Mandela in October 2014.

His second play *JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER* was premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2016, received its international premiere in Victoria, Canada in February 2017, and has since been performed in Lagos, Nigeria at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in August 2017 and at the Harare International Festival of the Arts. He is currently working on a third play inspired by the life of Black British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.