



## **Tayo Aluko**

**Actor, Singer, Writer**

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**Full Name: Omotayo Akintunde Aluko**  
**DOB: February 12, 1962**

### **Education:**

1978. School Certificate. King's College, Lagos, Nigeria.  
1981. GCE A-Levels. Bryanston School, Blandford Forum, Dorset, UK.  
1985. BA, Architecture. Canterbury College of Art, Kent, UK.  
1988. MSc, Architecture. University College, London.  
1991. BArch, Architecture. University of Liverpool.

### **Employment (Architecture):**

**Community Technical Services Agency (Comtechsa)** Liverpool, 1991-1992

**Brian Young & Associates, Liverpool.** 1992 – 1994.

Selected designs: Spinney Medical Centre, St. Helens; New Social Housing at Townfield Lane, Tranmere

**Tayo Aluko, Architect.** 1994 – 1998; 2000 – 2007

Selected designs: Newbuild Social Housing, Fleetwood; Blackpool; Cleveleys; Wigan; Liverpool

**Aluko Brooks Architects,** 1998 – 2000

Selected Designs: Office Refurbishment, Hope St. Liverpool; Social Housing, Prescott; Ormskirk;

**Bisayo Architecture,** 2007, 2009. Various house extensions, alterations.

### **Employment (Screen/Radio):**

BBC Radio 4: *The Amazing Life of Olaudah Equiano*. Presenter/Actor. Forthcoming, 2022

Finesse London Ltd: (*RICHES* for ITV) forthcoming, 2022/23

Space (*SLAUGHTERBOTS 2.0*) Permanently online from Nov 2021

Enact Solutions (*CLINIMED –Equality, Diversity Inclusion Corporate Short*) November 2021

Expectation Entertainment (*THIS IS MY HOUSE, BBC1*) March 2021

Hera Pictures (*TEMPLE* for Sky TV) Nov 2020

LA Productions (*MOVING ON* for BBC 1) August 2020

BBC World Service: *The Forum - Paul Robeson*. Contributor, October 2020

BBC Radio 3: *The Essay Paul Robeson in Five Songs*. March 2020

BBC World Service: *It just Keeps Rollin' – The History of Ol' Man River*. Contributor, Nov 2018

BBC Scotland: *The Common Struggle of Paul Robeson*. Oct 2019

**Employment (Stage):**

Tayo Aluko & Friends 2009 – present *Coleridge-Taylor of Freetown; Call Mr. Robeson; Just An Ordinary Lawyer; What Happens?; From Black Africa to the White House; Half Moon; Paul Robeson Art Is A Weapon Festival; An Afternoon With Tayo Aluko & Friends*

Sound Scotland. Narrator, *Th'Forst Munth Is Th'Wurst Iv Awl*. Composition by Ben Lunn.

October 2020

**Selected Reviews:****Call Mr Robeson:**

"First-rate ... an admirable introduction to a great pioneering performer" 4 Stars [The Guardian](#)

"A stunning piece of musical theatre.... high quality drama, first class singing"

[Fringe Review, Edinburgh Fringe, 2010](#)

"A brilliantly put together history lesson delivered as art." [Dirt & Candy](#)

"Never less than utterly believable" [British Theatre Guide](#)

"Simply told but immensely powerful" [The Scotsman](#)

"A must-see experience, a treasure of a show. TOP PICK!" [DC Theater Scene](#)

**Just An Ordinary Lawyer:**

"A fascinating play" (4 stars) [The Guardian](#)

"Another triumph ... that thrills and touches" (5 Stars) [British Theatre Guide](#)

"Immensely enjoyable." (4 Stars) [One4Review](#)

"A superb play" (9/10) [Liverpool Sound and Vision](#)

"Every socialist, anti-racist and anti-imperialist will love this" [Socialist Worker](#)

"Prepare to be bowled over" [Wirral Globe](#)

"Charming and captivating, A lovely story" [North West End](#)

**Selected Amateur Acting/Singing roles:**

THE SENTRY in IOLANTHE, Bryanston School, 1979

JUD FRY in OKLAHOMA! Bryanston School, 1980

THE SENTRY in IOLANTHE, Bath University, 1983

PEARCE in HALF A SIXPENCE, Bath University, 1984

BENNY SOUTHSTREET in GUYS N DOLLS, University College, London, 1985

CAIAPHAS in JESUS CHRIST, SUPERSTAR, University of Liverpool, 1990

PETRUCCIO in KISS ME KATE. University of Liverpool, 1992

SID SOROKIN in THE PAJAMA GAME. Liverpool Musical Society

BILLY CROCKER in ANYTHING GOES, Liverpool Musical Society

BALTHAZAR in AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS 1999

NABUCCO (Title role) Preston Opera, 2003

**Solo baritone roles in Oratorio, approx 1995 - 1999:**

Carmina Burana

Elijah

The Messiah

Olivet to Calvary

**Selected Professional Performances (Stage):**

VARIOUS CHARACTERS in THE MYSTERY PLAYS. Liverpool Playhouse, 1997. Director: Richard Williams

SOLOIST, (with Hallé Orchestra) Opening Anthem. Co-Op Annual Congress, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. 2000

PAUL ROBESON in CALL MR. ROBESON (Monodrama with songs, by Tayo Aluko)

2007 to present. Director: Olusola Oyeleye

TUNJI SOWANDE in JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER (Monodrama with songs, by Tayo Aluko) 2017 to present. Director: Amanda Huxtable

SINGER in THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY by Brian Friel, Lughnasa FrielFest, Derry, August 2019. Director: Jonathan Moore.

**Selected performance venues/events, as soloist/producer:**

Carnegie Hall, New York

Paul Robeson Community School for the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ, USA

Rutgers University, Camden, NJ

Garage Theatre, Teaneck, NJ

Hofstra University, Long Island, NY

Arena Stage, Washington DC

The Hop, Dartmouth College, New Hampshire

The Cultch, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, UK

Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, UK

Liverpool Everyman Theatre

Liverpool Playhouse Theatre

Tristan Bates Theatre, Covent Garden, London

Bristol Old Vic Theatre

Greenwich Theatre, London

Muson, Lagos, Nigeria

Edna Manley Theatre, Kingston, Jamaica

Baby Grand, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Waterfront Arts Centre, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Smock Alley Theatre, Dublin, Ireland

Queen's Park Arena, Glasgow, Scotland

**International Festivals**

National Black Theatre Festival, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

London Fringe. London, Ontario, Canada

Edmonton Fringe, Canada

Piccollo Spoleto Festival, Charleston, SC

Adelaide Fringe Festival, Australia

Wellington Fringe Festival, New Zealand

Harare International Festival of the Arts, Zimbabwe

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, Belfast, Northern Ireland

**Selected Presentations/Workshops/Talks at Universities, Colleges and Schools**

Zoom Talk, Performing Arts Students, Hofstra University. . Mapping "Greatness," October 2020

Talk to Michigan Tech Students on Paul Robeson, November 2019

Keynote Address, Graduate Research Seminar. Kent State University, April 2019

Hants East Rural High School, Milford Station, Nova Scotia, Canada, Feb 2018

Talk, Tucker Foundation Lunchtime Series, Dartmouth College, January 2012

Artist in Residence, Africana Studies, University of North Carolina, Charlotte. March 2009  
Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina, Feb 2013  
King's College Lagos. October 2009  
Childwall Performing Arts Academy, Liverpool, 2010  
Tapton School, Sheffield; Dinnington School, Rotherham; Northern College, Barnsley: October 2012

### **Selected Performances at Academic Conferences**

ATHE (Association for Theater in Higher Education) Boston, August 2018  
EBAAS (European and British Association for American Studies) London, April 2018  
IBAR (Institute for Black Atlantic Research), Preston, April 2016  
CAAR (Collegiate for African American Research) Liverpool, June 2015

### **Plays/Musicals Written:**

HALF MOON. A 15-minute play for three young actors. 2006. Performed between 2010 and 2019  
CALL MR. ROBESON. A Life, With Songs. Premiered 2007. Still in performance  
KWAMINA'S SONG. A 15-minute musical. Music by Oladele Olaseinde. Premiered 2013  
WHAT HAPPENS? A tribute to Langston Hughes, in words and music. Premiered 2015. Still in performance  
JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER. A play, with songs, Premiered 2016. Still in performance  
COLERIDGE-TAYLOR OF FREETOWN. Currently in production (writing)

Selected Reviews:

### **Other Presentations:**

FROM BLACK AFRICA TO THE WHITE HOUSE. A JOURNEY IN RESISTANCE, TRIUMPH AND SPIRITUALS. Musically illustrated talk, Premiered 2016.  
PAUL ROBESON – THE GIANT, IN A NUTSHELL. A musically illustrated talk.  
THIS LITTLE LIGHT. Talk on Paul Robeson using some of his recordings.  
PAUL ROBESON, FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE. Zoom talk for Counterfire

### **YouTube trailers to created performance works (with links):**

Paul Robeson's Love Song  
Call Mr. Robeson  
Just An Ordinary Lawyer  
What Happens?

### **Publications:**

Play scripts: **CALL MR. ROBESON**, Playdead Press, 2013  
**JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER**, Playdead Press, 2017

### **Selected Articles (with hyperlinks):**

**A Robeson-Influenced Prayer and Birthday Greeting from England.** Counterpunch, USA, 22 April 2021  
(first in [Mumia Journal](#), 16 April, 2021)  
**Why Paul Robeson's Voice Still Rings True Today.** in The Progressive, USA, April 2, 2021  
**Staging Your Cases: One Artist's Argument for More Creative Writing and Performance in Museums.** Journal of the Museum Ethnographers' Group no 34 Accepted Manuscript. Published March 2021  
**Our Father, Ten Years in Heaven.** Tribute to T.M. Aluko. In ThisDay, Nigeria, May 1, 2020

**"Greatness" In a Time of Covid. A Poem.** Published in [Counterfire](#), Morning Star, NERVE Magazine.

**Lessons From the Remarkable Life of Paul Robeson. Part 1; Part 2.** Counterfire, Oct 2019

**Washing Away All African Blood.** A personal survey of historic and contemporary institutional racism as revealed in some of Liverpool's buildings and spaces.

**Selected Articles (with hyperlinks) contd.:**

**Mapping Robeson:** Review of *No Way But This*, by Jeff Sparrow, in Camden New Journal, December 2018

**Blackface in Wales? Bryn Terfel Sings Paul Robeson.** Blog, Aug 2018

**Selected Articles (with hyperlinks, continued):**

**Jeremy Corbyn: A threat to National Security (or Why I'm backing Labour).** Published in MORNING STAR, June 2017

**A Black Man Praises the Police. But P&O? That's a Different Story.** NERVE Magazine, May 2016

**Art As A Weapon to Defend the Oppressed** Culture Matters, April 2016

**Archived NERVE Magazine articles**, various

**On Langston Hughes.** Dream Deferred (guest blog) December 10, 2014

**Paul Robeson and Me** (guest spot) Wales Arts Review, 21 April, 2015

**On Performance and Protest.** What's On Stage, 7 October 2013

**Is This A Time To Consider Racial Equality In Theatre?** The Guardian, 14 October 2013

**Diet of Homosexual Fish to Save Africa?** Modern Ghana, 27 Dec 2012

**Grave and Present Danger** (Morning Star, UK, May 2012)

**Some Called Me Green, But At Last I'm Out of the Blocks.** The Guardian, 31 May 2006

May 2022