

# TAYO ALUKO

Actor, Writer, Singer



Nigerian-born Tayo Aluko is based in Liverpool.

While a self-employed architect, he premiered his one-man play [CALL MR. ROBESON](#) at the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe. He has since become a full time performer, taking the play to places as distant as the North West Territories of Canada, Jamaica, Nigerian, Australia and New Zealand. One highlight was a performance at New York's Carnegie Hall in February 2012.

As writer-on-attachment with the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse theatres, he developed another one-man play, [JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER](#) which has also toured nationally and internationally.

His audio-visual play, [PAUL ROBESON'S LOVE SONG](#), written and recorded during lockdown with actors in Canada and USA, is now streaming online on *Africa Theatre to Your Home*.

With The Maltings Theatre, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Aluko developed a presentation 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 is currently working on a play inspired by the life, music and African roots of the British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, titled [COLERIDGE-TAYLOR OF FREETOWN](#).

As a baritone, 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 and oratorios.

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 exhibition at the National Museum Liverpool's International Slavery Museum. He was one of ten *People of Letters*: "leading writers of colour" commissioned to write and perform pieces in response to selected objects held at Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum, forming the inaugural online exhibition of the [Museum of Colour](#). Published writings include articles for the [Journal of Museum Ethnographers](#), [The Guardian](#), [Counterfire](#), [Morning Star](#), [NERVE Magazine](#), Liverpool Daily Post and Echo; North West Chronicle (all UK); [The Progressive](#), [Counterpunch](#) (USA), Punch and [ThisDay](#) (Nigeria), and [modernghana.com](#). He blogs occasionally on [Tayo Aluko's Blog](#).

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. His 15-minute play, HALF MOON deals with similar subjects, and has been performed by young actors several times around the UK.

His poem "GREATNESS" IN A TIME OF "COVID" has been developed into a global mapping project, [MAPPING "GREATNESS"](#) and an interactive workshop, [EXPLORING "GREATNESS"](#)

Another project in the works is a screenplay for TV series titled THE AFRICAN SAINT. It is based on the life of Nigerian-born Pastor Daniels Ekarte who set up the African Churches Mission in Liverpool in 1931, and ran it as a vital social service centre to the poor of the Toxteth and Dingle areas of Liverpool, until it closed in 1964.

August 2021