

It is distressing to hear that many Jewish people are feeling fearful in Britain and elsewhere at present. The “scourge of Anti-Semitism” is on the rise again, apparently. It was only a few years ago that what was described as “an existential threat” to British Jewry was avoided by the sensible decision by the British people to elect another Conservative government. The alternative was unthinkable – the possibility of having someone at the top who “enabled anti-Semitism to fester” in the Labour Party, who “called Hamas his friends” and who, according to one veteran Jewish Labour MP and national treasure was/is a “f****ng anti-Semite,” as she was brave enough to call him to his face in Parliament. Despite all that, that monster is on the loose again. He is to be found at the head of marches in which Palestinian flags are flown in open defiance of one of the kindest, most liberal Home Secretaries the nation has ever known, as the unruly mob behind him calls for the elimination of all Jews by letting out that blood-curdling chant, “*From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!*” As if that isn’t bad enough, those same Jewish people find their sensibilities further disturbed by the ugly spectacle of train stations in London, Liverpool (today), Manchester, New York, Washington DC being taken over by other mobs chanting the same hateful words. It was particularly bad two days ago when such scenes were accompanied by the terrifying sounds of fireworks all over the country, forcing people to relive the trauma of what happened on that fateful day, October 7, 2023, when for no reason at all, bombs and gunfire were unleashed by that terrorist organisation that runs the dirty, crowded city of Gaza. And why, oh why, site it so uncomfortably, inconveniently close to the land of peace, safety and democracy known as Israel, itself founded on land that had not been occupied for millennia until the original inhabitants decided to return? How sad that so many Jews, within Israel and beyond – maybe even here in Cambridgeshire - are so misguided as to join calls for peaceful co-existence with Arabs. It’s almost as shocking as that (in)famous anti-American Paul Robeson calling early-20th-Century Soviets his friends, and suggesting that the hate directed at them by the West was not only unfounded but was also a way to ensure that the elites retain their hold on power and on the untold wealth that comes from waging war around the globe, and continuing to rape Mother Earth with impunity. Thank goodness Robeson and his like were seen off, and that his country and the world are so much better, safer and fairer today. I hope you enjoy the show.

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. His other play, *JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER* has itself been performed for 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. 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.

Philbert So, piano. Philbert started learning the piano when he was 4 and the violin at 6. He achieved Grade 8 Piano before he left Hong Kong at the age of 14, and continued his studies in the UK. In the same year as he was doing his A-levels, he achieved Piano DipABRSM under the tutelage of Matthew Kam, as well as grade 8 Violin and Grade 7 Flute which he picked up along the way. Now a full-time engineer, he still actively engages in music in the form of tuition at his home in Chatteris. He still misses performing, which is why he started a YouTube channel, and why he was pleased to accept Mr. Aluko’s invitation to join him in *Call Mr. Robeson*.

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:

8 November: Call Mr. Robeson. St. Neots Library, Cambs

28 Aug 2024: Call Mr. Robeson. North American Festival of Wales, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

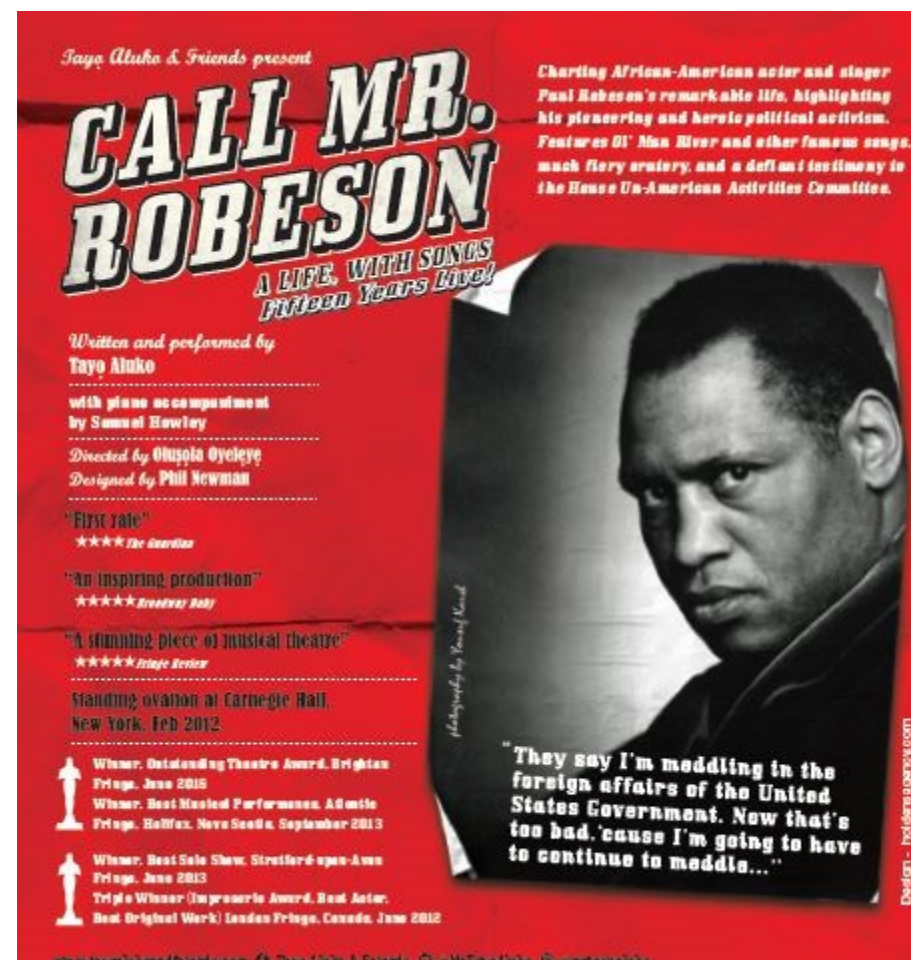
Tayo Aluko & Friends

Liverpool L15 3LA

info@tayoalukoandfriends.com www.tayoalukoandfriends.com

facebook: Tayo Aluko & Friends **Twitter:** @MrTayoAluko

instagram: mrtayoaluko **tel:** +44 7990 608 074



Written and performed by Tayo Aluko
Accompanied by Philbert So

St. Ives Library, Cambridgeshire
Wednesday 7 November, 2023