



Tayo Aluko

Actor, Singer, Writer

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Employment (Screen/Radio):

BBC Channel 5: *MADAME BLANC MYSTERIES* Dec 2023

ITV: *EMMERDALE* May 2023

BBC Radio 4: The Amazing Life of Olaudah Equiano. Presenter/Actor. May, 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](#)

“Music is a universal language, and Aluko speaks it beautifully.” (Excellent Show) [Fringe Review](#).

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

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

"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](#)

"A masterclass in performance art, research and history" (5 stars) [EdFringeReview.com](#) [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

"Tayo Aluko's writing is truly remarkable, and his stage presence is unparalleled with any other actor I've yet seen at the festival." (4 stars) [EdFringeReview.com](#)

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

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

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.

SELF in DODGING BULLETS. A commissioned monologue on the subject of mental health in men. Premiered 2022

SELF in WHO ARE THE CHILDREN? A commissioned monologue in support of wrongly-convicted Death Row prisoner Keith LaMar. Premiered 2023

GEORGE COLERIDGE-TAYLOR in COLERIDGE-TAYLOR OF FREETOWN (A concert in a play)

Premiere: May 2024. Director: Mojisola Kareem

International Festivals

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

London Fringe. London, Ontario, Canada

Edmonton Fringe, Canada

Piccolo 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

Talk to Edge Hill University, Ormskirk. Art As a Weapon – Some Pan-Africanist Examples. October, November 2022

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

Clafflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina, Feb 2013

King's College, Lagos, Nigeria. October 2009

Childwall Performing Arts Academy, Liverpool, 2010

Tapton School, Sheffield; Dinnington School, Rotherham; Northern College, Barnsley: Oct. 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

YouTube trailers to created performance works (with links):

Paul Robeson's Love Song; Call Mr. Robeson; Just An Ordinary Lawyer; What Happens?; Coleridge-Taylor of Freetown

Publications:

Play scripts: **CALL MR. ROBESON**, Playdead Press, 2013

JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER, Playdead Press, 2017

Selected Published Articles:

- The Indigestible African Warrior Seed. Barriers to Bridges Magazine, June 2023
- Mainstream Media as Iago to our Collective Othello. Culture Matters, May 2022
- Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, Heroine of the Nigerian Motherland Counterfire, October 13, 2021
- 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, in Morning Star, April 27, 2020
- There's something about that Jeremy Corbyn. Article for Morning Star, December 2019
- Lessons From the Remarkable Life of Paul Robeson, in Counterfire. Part 1; Part 2.
- Mapping Robeson: Review of *No Way But This*, by Jeff Sparrow, in Camden New Journal, December 2018
- Jeremy Corbyn: A threat to National Security (or Why I'm backing Labour). Published in MORNING STAR, June 2017
- Art As A Weapon to Defend the Oppressed Culture Matters, April 2017
- A Black Man Praises the Police. But P&O? That's a Different Story. NERVE Magazine, May 2016
- Wilberforce? No Way! (Nerve 9)
- May '49 Rumbings in Liverpool One (Nerve 11)
- The Rape of the Mother of Achilles (Nerve 12)
- A Christian Greeting to the Former Capital of Culture (Nerve 14)
- This Way for Titanic Housing
- Birth Defects at the Royal? (Nerve 24)
- 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)

- On travelling to America with Suspect Material Seattle, Jan 2010
- An Unpleasant Smell. Comment in Architects Journal, 15 June 2009
- Some Called Me Green, But At Last I'm Out of the Blocks. The Guardian, 31 May

March 2024