

An online map search indicates that there are four military bases within a 35-mile radius of Penryn, and sixteen within a 75-mile radius. It seems any of these could be the target of a missile from Russia, as the Ukrainian war escalates, thanks to British and American missiles now being used against Russia. This is rather alarming, and one wonders how we have arrived at this point, with the decision to allow the use of British missiles against Russia not having been discussed beforehand in Parliament. This suggests that we the public are being bypassed as politicians and military bosses bring us ever-closer to World War III – and it could be nuclear! It so happens that several independent journalists and campaigners have been warning us about these dangers for a while, but many of them are subject to state repression in the form of imprisonment and arrest under the Terrorism Act. Doubters should look up names like Craig Murray, Jackson Hinckle, Asa Winstanley and Sarah Wilkinson. Furthermore, several anti-war activists who have taken direct action against the Israeli war machine in this country are currently behind bars. Meanwhile, and by contrast, we are told that the issuing of arrest warrants against the prime minister and former defence chief of Israel is “outrageous.” These are men responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent Palestinians (who had nothing to do with October 7) and the destruction of property and infrastructure probably running into billions of dollars, not to talk of emotional and psychological trauma that will take generations to heal. Apartheid South Africa once seemed invincible, and they had the cooperation of Western leaders in painting freedom fighters as terrorists. The same was done with the Land and Freedom Army (the Mau Mau), and others all over European Empires. One of the chants regularly heard on pro-Palestine marches here and elsewhere is “Where people are occupied, resistance is justified!” Formerly-colonised peoples eventually shook their oppressors off their backs, at great cost, and sadly, too many of them then became oppressors themselves. The decision to starve poor “illegal” gold miners in South Africa is one example, and here in the UK, one wonders where senior African-descended politicians (who would not be in post without the activism and struggle of many who went before) will be placed on the oppressed/oppressor spectrum. I’m thinking of people like the Leader of the Opposition and the Foreign Secretary. History however tells us that despite the inevitable existence of collaborators, justice will always prevail.

Tayo Aluko, Writer, Performer. Tayo was born in Nigeria, and 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. His first play, *CALL MR ROBESON* has won numerous awards at festivals in the UK and Canada, and continues to be performed after 17 years. 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 radio play, *PAUL ROBESON’S LOVE SONG*, was recorded during lockdown with actors from the USA and Canada, and now streaming online. He has developed one of his poems – “*GREATNESS*” IN A TIME OF COVID – into an online international performance and mapping project and a workshop examining colonial history. Talks he gives include *ART AS A WEAPON – SOME PAN-AFRICANIST EXAMPLES*, a survey of artists in the African Diaspora. His third one-man musical play is *COLERIDGE-TAYLOR OF FREETOWN*, inspired by the life and music of the Black British Composer, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Philip Blandford, Piano. Phil holds a degree in Music from Bristol University and an Advanced Certificate from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He regularly provides music for a variety of events in the South West, South Wales and further afield. He has developed a repertoire of hundreds of songs from the last hundred years or so. He is a regular accompanist for several local groups, including Bristol Opera, North Avon Youth Theatre Company and the Amadeus Choir. He also accompanies numerous professional singers and instrumentalists. He plays in several jazz bands of all traditions, specialising in the 1920s styles.

Just An Ordinary Lawyer was premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe on 4th August, 2016 by Tayo Aluko, with Angus Carmichael on piano

Directed by **Amanda Huxtable**
Designed by **Emma Williams**
Dramaturgy: **Esther Wilson**
Lighting Design: **Mark Loudon**
Sound Design: **Noel Inyang & Tayo Aluko**



Tunji Sowande

Future Performances Include:

November 23. Just An Ordinary Lawyer @ Dragon Theatre, Barmouth, Wales

December 4. Coleridge-Taylor of Freetown @ Unity Theatre, Liverpool

Dec 7. Coleridge-Taylor of Freetown @ Courtyard Theatre, London

Tayo Aluko & Friends

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TAYO ALUKO & FRIENDS
present

JUST AN ORDINARY LAWYER

— (?) —

A PLAY, WITH SONGS

**Written and performed by Tayo Aluko,
with Philip Blandford, piano**

**Exeter University (Cornwall Campus)
Friday, 22 November, 2024**