

Tayo Aluko and Friends

British Nigerian Actor Brings Two Internationally Acclaimed Plays to Vancouver's Havana Theatre, 7 - 11 May

A British Nigerian actor who has been a regular visitor to British Columbia over the last ten years is returning to Vancouver with not one, but two plays at the Havana Theatre on Commercial Drive between 7th and 11th May.



[Click to go to Call Mr. Robeson website](#)



[Click to go to "Lawyer" website](#)



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Call Mr. Robeson, 7 - 10 May

The more established of the two plays, this is "a rollercoaster journey through African-American actor and singer **Paul Robeson's** remarkable life, highlighting his pioneering and heroic political activism. Features Ol' Man River and other famous songs, much fiery oratory, and a defiant testimony to the House Un-American Activities Committee." Mr.

Aluko has been touring this play internationally since 2008, from Innuvic in NWT to Wellington, New Zealand. **Reviews** include a 4-star "**First rate**" from the Guardian.

Just An Ordinary Lawyer, 10, 11 May

This was premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2016. Through the story of Britain's first Black Head of Chambers and part-time judge **Tunji Sowande**, it looks at the history of Western imperialism and Black liberation struggles worldwide with words and song, often venturing into that explosive world in which sports and politics collide. Although told from an African's perspective, it is global in its scope, with its critical observations of British Imperialism, including in Canada.



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Reviews include another 4 stars from **the Guardian**. It was also performed at the **National Black Theatre Festival** in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in August 2017 and at **Harare International Festival of the Arts** in May 2018. This will its Vancouver premiere, although it has previously been seen in Victoria.

Aluko, who is based in Liverpool, England, will be teaming up with Vancouver-based pianist **Elaine Joe**, with whom he has worked several times before.

He said of his coming visit, "I'm always thrilled to come to Vancouver, and am also happy to be based at the lovely Havana Theatre (which I discovered on my last visit) for a few days. The stories I am bringing are really important ones to share in this divided world, and by giving a historical perspective to many of today's situations, I believe they can be helpful as we search for solutions to at least some of our problems."



Schools' "Social Justice" Matinees for Robeson

Two matinees of Call Mr. Robeson have been laid out specifically for students of Social Justice at the Lord Byng Secondary School (on Tuesday and Friday), and a third (Wednesday) matinee will be open to the public, particularly for seniors who prefer not to be out at night in Vancouver. Among other things, the students will learn about the occasions when Paul Robeson, prevented by his government from leaving the US in the 1950s, sang to thousands across the border at Blaine.

Listings Information

What (Robeson):

Call Mr. Robeson. A Life, With Songs

Written and performed by Tayo Aluko

With Elaine Joe, Piano

Directed by Olusola Oyeleye

Designed by Phil Newman

When (Robeson):

Tuesday 7 - Friday 10 May, 2019

Matinees: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 1pm.

Evening performances (none Friday), 8pm

Tickets (Robeson):

Schools matinees: \$12 (Groups of 12, 1 free)

Other matinee and evening tickets:

\$15 (financially challenged) \$20 (general)

Listing/booking [here](#) ([fb page](#))

Photos and copy downloadable [here](#).

What (Lawyer):

Just An Ordinary Lawyer. A Play, With Songs

Written and performed by Tayo Aluko

With Elaine Joe, Piano

Directed by Amanda Huxtable

Designed by Emma Williams

When (Lawyer):

Friday 10, Saturday 11 May, 2019, 8pm

Tickets (Lawyer):

\$15 (financially challenged) \$20 (general)

Listing/booking [here](#) ([fb page](#))

Photos and copy downloadable [here](#)

Where:

Havana Theatre

1212 Commercial Dr, Vancouver

Contacts:

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www.callmrroberson.co.uk www.justanordinarylawyer.com Winner, Outstanding Theatre Award, Brighton Fringe, June 2016; Winner, Best Musical Performance, Atlantic Fringe Festival, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, September 2013; Winner, Best Solo Show, Stratford Fringe, June 2013; Triple Award Winner (Impresario Award, Best Actor, Best Original Work) London Fringe, Canada, June 2012. Double Award Winner (Playwright & Performer), Ogeyinka Merit Awards for Excellence, London, October 2010. Winner, Angel Award for Artistic Excellence; Winner, Best Male Performer. Brighton Festival Fringe, May 2008. President, Birmingham Clarion Singers.

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