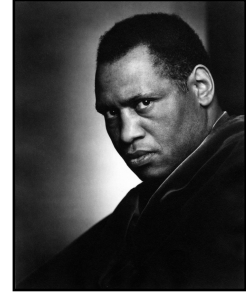


From a scrapbook to a festival!

Paul Robeson



Paul Robeson

University of Bristol Theatre Collection
Friends Event
Bristol Old Vic, Friday 5th June 2009, 5pm

In January 2008 Anna Farthing (BA Drama 1987) was in the Theatre Collection talking to students about the first black actors to play Othello, Ira Aldridge and Paul Robeson, when Jo mentioned that there was some material on Robeson in the scrapbooks of the first International Student Drama Festival hosted in Bristol in 1959.

Anna already wanted to bring Liverpool based Tayo Aluko's show '*Call Mr Robeson*' to Bristol but was struggling to find a host venue. The discovery of the scrapbooks led to a whole new strand of creative activity, the result of which is the '*Recalling Robeson in Bristol*' festival of events taking place in the city between 18th May and 6th June 2009.

Comprising performances, an exhibition, a lecture and workshops, as well as lots of educational activities, the '*Recalling Robeson*' project provides opportunities to rediscover Robeson's life story, commemorate his legacy and be inspired by the breadth of his achievements.

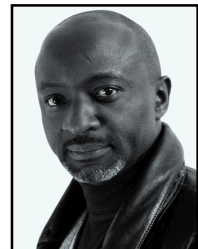


Friends of the Theatre Collection are invited to join in with the festival activities by visiting the Bristol Old Vic on Friday 5th June.

During the visit, the BOV foyer display, comprising selected panels from the '*Let Paul Robeson Sing!*' exhibition together with local memories and memorabilia will be available to view.

At **5pm** there is an opportunity to hear a talk from Prof Tony Howard (Warwick University) entitled '*I have done the state some service: Robeson, Othello and the FBI*'. This multi-media presentation reveals how Robeson used his portrayals of Othello to combat racism, while being under constant surveillance from the security forces in both the US and the UK. Prof Howard is happy to answer questions about his research in this area.

At **7.30pm** there will be a performance of '*Call Mr Robeson*' by Tayo Aluko and Friends. The climax of this "life with songs" sees Robeson giving the performance of his life to the House UnAmerican Activities Committee. After the hour long show there will be an opportunity to discuss the play with the company.



Tayo Aluko

Tickets are available from the Bristol Old Vic Box Office (www.bristololdvic.org.uk or telephone 0117 987 7877).

Tickets for the lecture are £5/£3 concessions. Tickets for the evening performance are £12/£8 or £6 for parties of ten or more. Dinner is at own cost. Please contact the BOV Box Office or Anna Farthing (anna@harvestfilms.co.uk) for more information.