

Another Select Put On BLAST!™ (POB!) item especially formatted for the “Press Room” at AKILAWORKSONGS.com. Be in the know! Join the thousands of other POB! subscribers and sign up at www.PutOnBLAST.com

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Hey POB! Fam,

Scroll down to get the link of yesterday's interview with Joan Morgan (BlogTalkRadio). She discusses everything from Michael Jackson to healthy competition amongst writers. Before that item, see my take on Adesola Osakalumi starring in FELA this past Saturday. Share your thoughts on these two items via the official [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for AKILA WORKSONGS.

April R. Silver
Founder & President of AKILA WORKSONGS
Lover of pecans and raisins ;-)



Saturday I saw the Tony Award winning musical [FELA! on Broadway](#) for the fourth time. Like a little girl overjoyed, I could hardly wait. This time would be *extra* special. [Adesola Osakalumi](#), the understudy for Fela (and a member of the Broadway ensemble since day one), would star in the role for the matinee. Twice in one week - first on Wednesday, then again on Saturday, Adesola got to take the lead...*and he was phenomenal.*

I'll be transparent: I own a PR firm. To the unenlightened, that translates as me being someone who takes money to make clients look good. For those that know me, however, know that my passion and integrity trumps conventional business protocol. I was never a good liar. I always ended up telling on myself somehow, so I have been obedient to the truth since I was a child. That said, let me tell you my truth about what I saw in Adesola as *Fela*.

The unique approach, which made Adesola's

performance so outstanding, was his personal blend of intensity and grace. I also thought the rhythm of his Nigerian accent was amazingly authentic for this Bronx native. And his pace was perfect. I have experienced this role performed at a faster pace, but Saturday's flow was just right.

In the world of dance, Adesola as choreographer and dancer, is a master. He is highly regarded as one of the best "all around" dancers in all genres (with an award-winning mastery of hip hop dance). So it's predictable that his body language/movement as Fela would be flawless. What also struck me, though, was Adesola's balanced interpretation of Fela as one comfortable with his fearlessness and his willingness to evoke audible gasps from those around him...yet coupled with an obvious compassion and vulnerability. The character's scenes with his mother Fumilayo and his girlfriend Sandra were sweet and very convincing.

Adesola is no stranger to acting. He's been in film, television, Off-Broadway, and Broadway shows for over a decade now. Landing the role as understudy in Fela was a groundbreaking feat in his career, no doubt. His answer to the challenge was a performance that embodied the musicality, the spiritual essence, and the definitive power of Fela himself. If Fela, the ancestor, is pleased with this magical musical that has rocked Broadway over the past nine months, then I'm confident that he is well pleased with Adesola's contribution, especially as a leading actor.

Everybody say Yeah Yeah!

Learn more about the musical. Visit www.FELAonBroadway.com. To learn more about Adesola, explore his website at www.Adesola.com. Find him on Facebook, too.

Adesola Oşakalumi
actor . choreographer . dancer

photo credit: Michael Scott Jones

If you missed this month's episode of "ARTS and ACTIVISM on the AIR," (from AKILA WORKSONGS), then listen now on...

blogtalkradiosm 

August 2010 Guest: **JOAN MORGAN**
award winning journalist, author, & cultural critic



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"Arts and Activism on the Air" is a monthly radio show hosted by April R. Silver (launched Feb. 2010). Click names below to hear previous BlogTalkRadio episodes.

- February: [K. Mensah Wali](#)
- March: [Donna Walker-Kuhne](#)
- April: [DJ Kuttin' Kandi](#)
- May: [William Jelani Cobb, Ph.D](#)
- June: [Mo Beasley](#)
- July: [Monifa Bandele](#)
- August: [Joan Morgan](#)

Upcoming: A Special Hour with SONIA SANCHEZ LIVE! September 26 (3p EST)

If you enjoy the shows and appreciate the guests, let us know. [Become a friend and listener](#) of the show, follow us on [Twitter](#), and/or become a fan on [Facebook](#). We'd love your thoughts.

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