Tyra Whye

Paul Robeson

Paul Robeson, the first African American to play Othello in about 50 years. Paul Robeson had a history of taking part in the Civil Rights movement and had a strong mindset about altering society's views of African Americans in theater. He was ready and willing to give it his all, show his talent and prove that, as Robeson said himself " men of my colour"[1], could be a strong successful actor. His commitment and emotion attached to his goal can be seen in the second and third image.There are many mixed reviews and opinions about his acting and portrayal of Othello, but what can be said is Robeson definitely made history and an impact on how society viewed African Americans in theater.

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[1] Robeson, Jr. 2001, pp. 176–177; cf.Nollen 2010, p. 29