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**TONY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL “FELA!” IS RETURNING
TO BROADWAY FOR 32 PERFORMANCES ONLY!
Adesola Osakalumi Continues in Title Role: **July 9 – August 4, 2012****

New York, NY - - Producers **Shawn “Jay-Z” Carter, Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, Ruth and Stephen Hendel, Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, and The National Theatre of Great Britain** announced earlier this month that the Tony Award winning production of *FELA!* will return to Broadway for a limited run of 32 performances. **Adesola Osakalumi**, who currently stars in the title role for the world tour (along with Tony Award-nominated actor **Sahr Ngaujah**), will continue in the title role during the limited engagement. *FELA!* is based on the life of **Fela Anikulapo-Kuti** (commonly known as Fela), the internationally revered Nigerian-born musician and composer who created Afrobeat music in the late 1960’s. The Broadway summer run will be at the **Al Hirschfeld Theatre** (located at 302 West 45th Street in New York City) from **July 9 - August 4, 2012**.

FELA! debuted on Broadway November 2009 and Adesola Osakalumi (pronounced *ah-day-SHOW-la • O-sa-ka-LU-mee*) was cast as both an ensemble member and as the understudy for Fela (then played by Ngaujah and **Kevin Mambo**). Fourteen months and three Tony Awards later, *FELA!* embarked on a world tour. Currently, Ade (as he is known) shares the lead role globally with Ngaujah. In key US cities such as Detroit and Philadelphia, Ade played most performances and did so to rave reviews.

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The schedule for *FELA!*'s return to Broadway is as follows: Monday, Tuesday at 7pm; Wednesday at 2pm and 7:30pm; Thursday at 7pm; Friday at 8pm; Saturday at 2pm and 8pm. There are no performances on Sundays. Tickets range from \$47 - \$132 and can be purchased online at www.telecharge.com, by phone at 212.239.6200, or in-person at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. The official website is www.felaonbroadway.com

The Fela and Adesola Connection

Fela Kuti was as known for his unparalleled musical genius as he was for his rebellious stance against the violent Nigerian dictatorial government of his day. At great risk and injury to himself and his family, Fela upheld controversial positions against corruption and the status quo. A creative risk-taker and gifted musical innovator as well, Fela is often compared to his contemporaries **Bob Marley** and **James Brown** when world music lovers survey his stature.

His music was first heard in the United States via **Makossa Records**, a Brooklyn-based record label that distributed his music throughout the country. Makossa Records was owned Adesola's father and uncles.

When asked to elaborate on this relationship to Fela, Ade offers: "You know, you can't make this stuff up. I have been listening to Fela's music since I was a child. Having met him through my family, I take it a great honor to play him and I don't take it lightly. I'm thrilled to return to Broadway. Starting with my Off-Broadway debut with *Jam on the Groove* to my role in *Equus* with **Daniel Ratcliffe** to me being the understudy in *FELA!* on Broadway to now: starring in the title role, it's all a testament to what faith and hard work will get you. My career trajectory has taken me all over the world and into various circles and I'm humbled."

As an actor, Adesola can also be seen in the films *Sex and the City 2*; *The Accidental Husband* (with **Uma Thurman**); *Crazy Beats Strong*, an award-winning short film featured at The Sundance Film Festival; and in *Ngwino Ubeho* at The Sundance Theater Lab. For his work as an actor or dancer, Ade has been favorably reviewed or profiled in *The New York Times*, Vibe.com, BlackActors.net, *Jamaica Observer*, *The Crisis Magazine*, and many other media outlets.

About *FELA!* On Broadway

FELA!, a Tony Award winning musical, is inspired by the authorized biography *Fela: This Bitch of a Life* by *Carlos Moore*. It is directed and choreographed by **Bill T. Jones** with a book by **Jim Lewis** and **Bill T. Jones**. The music and lyrics are by **Fela Anikulapo-Kuti**. Conceived by Bill T. Jones, Jim Lewis, and Stephen Hendel, the design and Tony Award winning costumes are by **Marina Draghici**, lighting design by **Robert Wierzel** and the Tony Award winning sound design by **Robert Kaplowitz**. *FELA!* is produced by Shawn “Jay-Z” Carter, Will & Jada Pinkett Smith, Ruth & Stephen Hendel, the National Theatre of Great Britain, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Roy Gabay, Edward Tyler Nahem, Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, **Slava Smolokowski, Chip Meyrelles/Ken Greiner, Douglas G. Smith, Steve Semlitz/Cathy Glazer, Daryl Roth/True Love Productions, Susan Dietz/Mort Swinsky, and Knitting Factory Entertainment.**

To learn more about Adesola, visit www.adesola.com. On Facebook, search for Adesola and on Twitter, visit @AdesolaO.

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