

# Adesola Osakalumi

**Adesola Osakalumi** (*ah-day-SHOW-la O-sa-ka-LU-mee*) is an award-winning actor, choreographer, singer, and dancer whose talents have garnered him successes in film, television, and on Broadway. He is perhaps best recognized as a lead in the National Tour of the Broadway hit musical **FELA!**, which won three Tony Awards in 2010. To rave reviews, Adesola was the lead during the musical's first national tour as well as when it returned to Broadway the following summer.



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In 2016, Adesola was cast as Trenton in *Ice* on Audience Network/DirectTV, executive produced and directed by Academy Award-winning director **Antoine Fuqua** (*Training Day*); and in the highly-acclaimed OBIE Award-winning play *Skeleton Crew*, directed by **Ruben Santiago-Hudson** at the Atlantic Theater Company. Prior, Adesola was cast in the Broadway revival of *Equus* with **Daniel Radcliffe**.

In film, Adesola can be seen in *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.

He has been favorably reviewed and profiled in *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, VIBE.com, BlackActors.net, ESSENCE.com, *Jamaica Observer*, *The Crisis Magazine*, and many other outlets.

It was through dance that Ade (as he is affectionately called) made his first mark on the stage and has come to be regarded among his peers as a leader in the world of hip hop dance. He has the distinction of having co-created and co-directed the Off-Broadway hit *Jam on the Groove*, the first ever hip hop theater production. It received a Drama Desk Award

nomination for Best Choreography. Ade is also co-founder of the legendary GhettoOriginal Productions Dance Company. His work has earned him a Bessie Award, a Drama Desk Award nomination, and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. As a dancer, his appearances include ***Across the Universe***, ***Enchanted***, ***Idlewild***, ABC Television's ***Double Platinum*** (with **Brandy** and **Diana Ross**), ***Louis/The Great Observer***, ***MTV Music Video Awards***, ***The TODAY Show***, ***American Music Awards***, and others.

Choreographic credits include the films ***School of Rock*** and ***Marci X***; for the stage, ***Centrifugal Force*** at Lincoln Center's ***Out of Doors*** (where he served as artistic director/co-choreographer); ***Eyewitness Blues*** for New York Theatre Workshop; ***Mister*** at the NY Fringe Festival and New York Theatre Workshop; and ***Hip Hop Wonderland***

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with Bill Irwin at The New Victory Theatre. Adesola has also choreographed or danced in several commercials and upfronts for Target, American Express, Panasonic, PBS Kids, Old Navy, ESPN, Fox TV, Advil, Levi 501 Jeans, Halifax Bank, Merck, NV Energy, SAP, and several other companies all over the world. For recording artists such as **Usher**, **Mariah Carey**, **Sean “Diddy” Combs**, **Joe**, and others Ade has also worked as a choreographer and/or featured dancer.

Adesola also teaches and lectures about his craft. “I get as much out of teaching as my students,” Ade says. “It’s exciting to see how theater and dance can change lives. It allows for a liberating experience with life...unlike anything I’ve seen.” He has taught at places as distinct as the Urban Assembly of Music and Art in Brooklyn, the International TANZWOCHEN in Vienna, The Bronx Lab School, OBS in Taiwan, and the Artcaval Festival in Paris.

In leadership, Adesola has served as Artistic Director for *Hip Hop Kung Fu* at The Asia Society (featuring hip hop artists from Japan, China, and the US), a Board Member of *Dancing in the Streets*, and has been a choreographic mentor for Pentacle.

## Follow Adesola on social media:

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