

Damilola's smile still resonates, says actress who plays his mother

Robert Dex Arts Correspondent

DAMILOLA TAYLOR'S smile "still resonates" around the world, according to the actress who plays his mother in a new drama about the shocking killing of the 10-year-old.

Wunmi Mosaku – seen here in the first image released from BBC1 film *Our Loved Boy* – plays Gloria Taylor, alongside Babou Ceesay as Damilola's father Richard. Filming has just started on the one-off 90-minute programme, which is being made with the support of Mr Taylor. His wife died in 2008.

Damilola was stabbed with a broken bottle in Peckham as he made his way home from the library on November 27, 2000. He bled to death in a stairwell. The drama will not feature his killing and the BBC said it would focus on the effect of his death on his family as they try to get justice for their son.

Brothers Danny and Ricky Freddie, who were 12 and 13 at the time of the killing, were eventually sentenced to eight

years for manslaughter after a series of trials.

Mosaku, 29, who like Damilola was born in Nigeria and moved to the UK as a child, said: "It is humbling to be a part

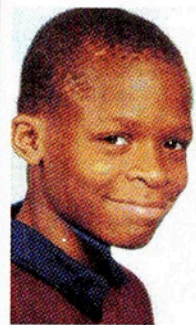
of *Our Loved Boy*. Damilola's smile still resonates deeply within the UK and beyond." Her work includes roles in *Dancing On the Edge* and *Vera*.

Ceesay, who played a detective in *Inspector Morse* spin-off *Lewis*, said it was "a real honour to be part of the telling of this story. I feel a responsibility to the family, to Richard Taylor and

of course to Damilola Taylor. I hope that in our own small way we can contribute to his legacy".

Writer Levi David Addai's previous work includes *My Murder*, about the killing in 2008 of 16-year-old Shakilus Townsend in Thornton Heath. He said the Taylors' story was "about family, fatherhood and hope". @RobDexES

BBC/MINNOW FILMS/STEEFAN HILL



Stabbed to death: Damilola Taylor, 10. Left, Wunmi Mosaku and Babou Ceesay in *Our Loved Boy*. Inset, his parents Gloria and Richard

