

CLEAN BREAK

CLEAN BREAK ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST SEASON OF 2020: PLAYS BY YASMIN JOSEPH, DAISY KING, AND CHLOË MOSS; MEMBERS CENTRE-STAGE; AND UNIQUE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

During 2019, Clean Break celebrated its 40th Anniversary with an outstanding programme of work on and off the stage. The year culminated with its Joint Artistic Directors recognised as among the most influential people in theatre on The Stage 100 list and Clean Break included in the Big Issue's Top 100 Changemakers. In 2020, the company continues to make an impact on stage, in prisons, in the community, and as a leader in the theatre industry.

During the first six months of 2020, Clean Break highlights includes:

- **INSIDE THIS BOX** - a new play by **Yasmin Joseph**, inspired by stories of coercion and the choices young women face; directed by **Stef O'Driscoll**, performed by Clean Break Young Artists at Arcola and Omnibus (26 – 29 February 2020)
- **NOT PRETTY LIKE THE RAINBOW** - written by Clean Break Member **Daisy King**, directed by **Anna Herrmann**, challenging the ineffectiveness of short sentencing; performed by Clean Break Members in a range of settings (touring criminal justice and academic settings until 31 March 2020)
- **SWEATBOX** - **Chloë Moss'** intimate play staged in a prison van, shines a light on women's experiences travelling between prisons and courts. It continues to tour, including Essex Book Festival on 14 March, Clean Break 28 April + universities across the country
- Clean Break's ground-breaking Leadership Programme this season features industry training opportunities including **Unlocking Potential** (about creating safe and transformative women-only spaces) and **The LAB** (sharing Clean Break's unique practice and philosophy)

INSIDE THIS BOX

written by **Yasmin Joseph**

directed by **Stef O'Driscoll**, sound design by **Munotida Chinyanga**

26 February 2020 at Omnibus Theatre

28 – 29 February 2020 at Arcola Theatre Creative/Disruption20 festival

Inside this box is the first time I ever rode a bike. Pink with tassels... Inside this box are books, a red dress or my sister's laugh.

Or maybe they aren't. Maybe its organs, government secrets, money or something else.

A young woman has been asked to take a mysterious box to a secret location. She's been trusted to do it, a real responsibility that will bring in real money for her and her sister. All she has to do is take a train to a meeting point. But now the location has changed, she doesn't know who she's meeting, her phone is on 38% and every step is filling her with more doubt. How does she know if she is doing the right thing?

Performed by Clean Break's Young Artists, *Inside This Box* is about young women, the criminal justice system and trying to imagine another way. The production was created as part of the Co-Op Foundation funded Youth Loneliness Project.

NOT PRETTY LIKE THE RAINBOW

written by Daisy King

directed by Anna Herrmann, assistant directed by TerriAnn Oudjar

Performed until April at locations including: Goldsmiths University, Harrow Crown Court, Advance Minerva, University of Surrey, Manchester Metropolitan University

Press attendance by arrangement

Three women, known only as 66, 7, and 46, have their lives derailed by short sentences which put their housing, families and mental health at risk. Now, it's finally time to tell their stories.

At a time when short sentences have been widely recognised as ineffective, Daisy King asks what this means for the women who are still serving time for six months or less and offers audiences some alternatives to consider.

Not Pretty Like The Rainbow is directed by Joint Artistic Director Anna Herrmann, and written, performed and assistant directed by Clean Break Members. It is one of Clean Break's Sector Plays, acclaimed for their impact in settings including criminal justice agencies, probation services, universities (criminology and theatre courses), and for groups including policymakers, service users and staff working with women in the criminal justice system.

SWEATBOX

written by Chloë Moss

directed by Anna Herrmann, original conceived by Imogen Ashby

Public performances include: 14 March 2020 at Essex Book Festival and 28 April 2020 at Clean Break studios in Kentish Town; + performances at universities across the country.

Sweatbox is an intimate production staged in a real prison van, to audiences of 12 at a time. This unique play was originally conceived and directed by Imogen Ashby in 2015, and performed at Latitude Festival, York St John's University, and at the National Theatre as part of *Our Country's Good: The Transforming Power of Art*. It was revived for Clean Break's 40th Anniversary, at Chichester Festival Theatre and touring the UK.

The 2020 touring production includes Clean Break Members **Funke Adeleke** (*On Missing*, Cockpit Theatre), **Jade Small** (*Sweatbox* original cast member, *Inside Bitch* at Royal Court Theatre), and **Posy Sterling** (*Belong* at Arcola Theatre + Lyric Hammersmith).

Sweatbox has been made possible by funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) as part of a major two year research project led by Prof Caoimhe McAviney (Queen Mary University of London) with Prof Anne-marie Greene (University

of Leicester), Dr Deborah Dean (University of Warwick), Dr Sarah Bartley (Queen Mary University of London) and Clean Break.

TRAINING AND EVENTS INCLUDE:

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

19 March 2020 at Clean Break

Clean Break is an industry leader in creating safe and transformative women-only spaces, with four decades' experience of working with women affected by the criminal justice system, in prisons, and through its former award-winning Education Programme, and with its Members. In this one-day training course, it shares its expertise with theatre artists and early career group work practitioners.

THE LAB

30 March – 1 April 2020 at Clean Break

Clean Break's Joint Artistic Directors Anna Herrmann and Róisín McBrinn share insight to Clean Break's practice and philosophy during this three-day training course for theatre artists who are passionate about women's experiences, committed to social justice and interested in theatre practice in prisons, criminal justice, and community settings. Working collaboratively with Clean Break Members, it is a unique experience to learn in depth about Clean Break's specialised approach to theatre and criminal justice.

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS

Clean Break changes lives and changes minds through theatre – on stage, in prison and in the community. It produces ground-breaking plays with women's voices at the heart of its work. Founded in 1979 by two women prisoners who believed that theatre could bring the hidden stories of imprisoned women to a wider audience, it remains true to these roots; inspiring playwrights and captivating audiences with the company's award-winning plays on the complex theme of women and crime.

Its commissioned playwrights have included Alice Birch, Deborah Bruce, Lin Coghlan, E V Crowe, Vivienne Franzmann, Tanika Gupta, Katie Hims, Sam Holcroft, Theresa Ikoko, Lucy Kirkwood, Chloë Moss, Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Winsome Pinnock and Rebecca Prichard.

Clean Break celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2019. Highlights included: *Inside Bitch*, conceived by Stacey Gregg and Deborah Pearson, devised by Lucy Ekins, Jennifer Joseph, TerriAnn Oudjar and Jade Small, at the Royal Court Theatre; Alice Birch's *[BLANK]* by Alice Birch at the Donmar Warehouse; *Belong* by Brazen, Clean Break's Young Artists, at Arcola Disruption Festival and Lyric Hammersmith Evolution Festival; *All The Lights Are On*, the company's first collaboration with Cardboard Citizens; *Sweatbox* by Chloë Moss, touring the UK in a prison van; and a series of events and talks.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Not Pretty Like The Rainbow www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/not-pretty-rainbow/
Inside This Box at Arcola Omnibus www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/inside-box/
Sweatbox at Essex Book Festival www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox/
Sweatbox at Clean Break www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox/

Unlocking Potential www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/unlocking-potential/

The LAB www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/the-lab/

BIOGRAPHIES

Munotida Chinyanga is a multidisciplinary Artist creating work through Direction and Sound Design. Her practice investigates design led theatre, redefining spaces and challenging the role of the audience. She has a Masters in Theatre Arts focusing on Multidisciplinary practices, Sonic Art and International Collaboration. Munotida has worked at venues such as; Manchester Royal Exchange (*CUTTIN' IT*, 2020), The Young Vic (*Tree*, 2019), The Gate Theatre (*A Small Place*, 2018), Pleasance Theatre (*Ali and Dahlia*, 2019), and the Oxford Northwall. International work includes Creative Europe residences in Serbia (2016), France (2017) and Malta (2017). She has directed productions for and delivered masterclasses at Teatro India, The National Theatre of Rome and Teatro di Akrai, The National Institute of Ancient Drama, Sicily. Munotida has recently produced work for the Republic of China and South Korea as part of the 2019 YIYUAN TANG Museum & Foundation in China. She is also currently an Associate Lecturer at Central Saint Martins for BA Performance: Design and Practice.

Yasmin Joseph is a London-based playwright. Her debut play *J'Ouvert* premiered at Theatre503 in 2019 and with this she was shortlisted for the Evening Standard's Charles Winter Most Promising Playwright Award.

She is currently a member of the Royal Court's invitational writers group and is an alumna of Theatre503's Resident Writer's Programme, The 503Five, and Soho Theatre's Young Writer's Lab where she developed *Pinch*, which was long-listed for the Alfred Fagon 'Best New Play of the Year' Award in 2015.

Other credits include *Rumble* (Gate Theatre, Harrow Club Young Company), *Sugar* (Kiln Theatre, Mapping Brent), *The Place of Shining Light* (Theatre503, Sahar Speaks) and *Do You Pray?* (Theatre503, Southwark Playhouse).

Daisy King is a writer and Clean Break Member. Her play *Firm* features in Clean Break's 40th Anniversary celebration book *Rebel Voices: Monologues for Women by Women*. Daisy has had two full scale productions of her debut play *NOF*CKSGIVEN* (King's Head Theatre and Vault Festival 2019) and recently finished as a member of the Royal Court Writers Circle. *Not Pretty Like The Rainbow* is Daisy's first commission.

Anna Herrmann is the Joint Artistic Director of Clean Break and has worked in the theatre and social change sector for over thirty years, as an actor, teacher, director and facilitator. Anna joined as Head of Education in 2002 and led its award-winning Education programme for 15 years. For Clean Break she has directed *Not Pretty Like The Rainbow* by Daisy King, *Sweatbox* by Chloë Moss, *Hear* by Deborah Bruce and *Missing Out* by Mary Cooper.

Stef O'Driscoll is a director. Her theatre includes: *A History of Water in the Middle East* (Royal Court Theatre); *Lit* (Nottingham Playhouse, Hightide Theatre); *On The Other Hand, We're Happy*, Daf James; *Daughterhood*, Charley Miles; *Dexter And Winter's Detective Agency*, Nathan Bryon (Paines Plough); *Island Town, Sticks & Stones, How to Spot an Alien, With a Little Bit of Luck, Hopelessly Devoted, Blister* (Paines Plough); *Last Night* (nabokov/Roundhouse); *Storytelling Army* (nabokov/Brighton Festival); *Slug* (nabokov/Latitude); *Box Clever* (Bunker); *Yard Gal* (Ovalhouse); *The Unmaster, A Tale from*

the Bedsit (Bestival), *Finding Home* (Roundhouse); *A Guide to Second Date Sex, When Women Wee* (Underbelly/Soho); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* [co-director] (Lyric, Hammersmith). As associate director, theatre includes: *Mogadishu* (Lyric, Hammersmith/Royal Exchange, Manchester). As assistant director, theatre includes: *Wasted* (Paines Plough); *Henry IV* (Donmar/St Anne's Warehouse, Brooklyn); *Blasted* (Lyric, Hammersmith). Awards include: BBC Radio & Music Award for Best Production (*With a Little Bit of Luck*); Fringe Report Award for Best Fringe Production (*Yard Gal*). Stef is Artistic Director of nabokov and previously Associate Director at Paines Plough and Lyric Hammersmith.

TerriAnn Oudjar has been a Clean Break Member since 2004 and has been performing on stage and screen prior to this. In 2003 she appeared in BBC2's *Grass*, and in 2004 BBC3's *Killing Time*. The same year she featured in *Stealing Lives* for Channel 4. TerriAnn has also performed in feature films *Rabbit Fever* (2006) and *Trauma* (2004). In 2016 she appeared in *The Vagina Monologues* on stage at the Bristol Bierkeller and most recently she devised and starred in *Inside Bitch*, a Clean Break and Royal Court co-production. All the while she has performed in, facilitated workshops and been Assistant Director on many Clean Break shows.

Chloë Moss is an accomplished playwright and screenwriter. Her celebrated play *This Wide Night* (Clean Break, Soho Theatre, 2008) won the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn prize and was subsequently produced off-Broadway, starring Edie Falco. Chloë has written numerous other plays including *The Gatekeeper* (Royal Exchange Theatre, 2012), *Fatal Light* (for Clean Break at Soho Theatre, 2010 + 2011), *Catch* (Royal Court, 2006), and *How Love Is Spelt* (Bush Theatre, 2004, + New York's Summer Play Festival, 2005). She is currently under commission to the Royal Court Theatre, Headlong, and Soho Theatre. Chloë has also written extensively for television. Most recently she has written on *Six Wives* (BBC One) and *Dickensian* (Red Planet Pictures), and written episodes for *New Tricks* (BBC One), *The Smoke* (Kudos), and *Prisoner's Wives* and *The Secret Diary Of A Call Girl* (Tiger Aspect). She has also written *Care*, a single drama for Warp Films and Sky Arts, and an original series *Switch*, co-written with Tim Price, for Touchpaper / ITV2.

PRESS CONTACTS

Nancy Poole: 07957 342 850 / nancy@nancypoolepr.com

Sally Muckley: 020 7482 8611 / sally.muckley@cleanbreak.org.uk

www.cleanbreak.org.uk

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