

# CLEAN BREAK

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## CLEAN BREAK LAUNCHES 2 METRES APART: SOCIALLY DISTANCED COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN CLEAN BREAK PLAYWRIGHTS AND MEMBER ARTISTS

Clean Break is commissioning twelve writers from its artist community and twelve of its Member artists for 2 Metres Apart, a new project celebrating connections and collaboration in an isolated world.

2 Metres Apart will see artists from Clean Break's history working with emerging artists from the company's Members Programme. Over 8 weeks, the twelve pairs will meet digitally to work creatively, share ideas, and see what arises from the process. They could choose to co-write together, to each respond to a selected stimulus, for one artist to write for their partner to perform. Working on the understanding that both Artists' skills and lived experience are equally valued, the pairs will work as collaborators on equal footing to explore what creative partnership could look like.

2 Metres Apart is focused on practice rather than product, providing collaborators the space to explore and experiment. Rather than focusing on outcomes, the project brings together and maintains Clean Break's commitment to nurture, employ and extend artists and its Members.

The twelve artistic collaborators are (biographies in Notes):

Ayesha Antoine and Yvonne Wickham  
Deborah Bruce and Sarah Cowan  
Katherine Chandler and Nicole Hall  
Vivienne Franzmann and Kathryn O'Reilly  
Sonya Hale and Lucy Edkins  
Yasmin Joseph and River  
Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and TerriAnn Oudjar  
Sabrina Mahfouz and Posy Sterling  
Chloë Moss and Sarah Jane Dent  
Ambreen Razia and Natasha Jean Sparkes  
Danusia Samal and Funke Adeleke  
Somalia Seaton and Eddy Emenike

*Anna Herrmann, Clean Break's Joint Artistic Director: 'We are excited to launch 2 Metres Apart and look forward to see what emerges from these partnerships: no defined output, no expectations, just an invitation to connect, find inspiration and see where it leads artistically. All the women involved are brilliant and compassionate artists who bring a deep connection with Clean Break's mission. This project feels so special because it both*

*responds to what we believe to be a very current need to connect in a world turned upside down, whilst also advancing our strategic commitment to exploring new forms and centring our Members at the heart of our artistic work. We hope that whatever emerges provides our artists with an important moment of growth, connection and hope.'*

#### **Artist quotes:**

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm: *'Working together remotely is always tricky but the nature of this exchange is to work round that and it's creating some brilliant conversations and ideas. I'm genuinely loving exploring what a 'new project' could mean when we have no idea what is next for theatre. For me it's connection and being creative together. It's been wonderful so far.'*

TerriAnn Oudjar: *'I am excited about working with Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and look forward to naturally finding the flow of how we work, and seeing if and how we can overcome the loss of connection, togetherness and warmth that is shared in a usual working space.'*

#### **NOTES 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.

Since closing its building in March due to the Covid-19 crisis, Clean Break has been working to ensure that its community remains vital. Along with *2 Metres Apart*, Clean Break has also launched *Write 2 Connect*, a letter writing project connecting women in prison with women in the community, and an online artistic programme to provide a creative space for women with experience of the criminal justice system. The company's 2020 productions have also included: *Inside This Box* by Yasmin Joseph, performed by Clean Break Young Artists at Arcola and Omnibus; *Not Pretty Like The Rainbow*, by Clean Break Member Daisy King, performed by Clean Break Members in a range of settings; and *Sweatbox* by Chloë Moss' touring in a prison van.

Clean Break celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 2 METRES APART: BIOGRAPHIES

### **Ayesha Antoine and Yvonne Wickham**

Ayesha is a writer and actor. As a performer her theatre credits includes: *[BLANK]* (Clean Break/Donmar Warehouse, 2019), *White Teeth* (Kiln, 2018), *Napoleon Disrobed* (Told by an Idiot, 2018), *Hamlet* (Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company, 2017), *Life of Galileo* (Young Vic, 2017), *Dirty Great Love Story* (Arts Theatre, 2017), *trade* (Young Vic, 2016), *The Suicide* (National Theatre, 2016), *Red Velvet* (Garrick Theatre, 2016), *We Are Proud to Present...* (Bush, 2014), and *Tartuffe* (Birmingham Rep, 2013).

Ayesha will be working with Yvonne Wickham. Yvonne has performed extensively with Clean Break including in *Sounds Like an Insult* (2015) and with Cardboard Citizens including *Cathy Come Home* (2016), *Celebrating Recovery* (2016) and *A Few Man Fridays* (2015). Her other acting credits include: *And Yet It Moves* and *Carnation for a Song* (Young Vic, 2018) and *You Say You Want a Revolution* and *Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi* (Synergy, 2016). She has also toured schools in Hackney extensively with Immediate Theatre Company.

### **Deborah Bruce and Sarah Cowan**

Deborah is a writer and director. Her writing credits include: *The House They Grew Up In* (Minerva Theatre, Chichester, 2017), *The Distance* (Orange Tree Theatre and Sheffield Crucible, 2014), *Same* (National Theatre Connections Festival 2014), and *Godchild* (Hampstead Theatre, 2013). Deborah was Clean Break's Writer in Residence between 2016-18 and has a play in development with them. Deborah leads Clean Break's weekly Writers Circle for their Members. She is also currently under commission to Hampstead Theatre.

Deborah will be working with Sarah Cowan. Sarah trained at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and worked as an actor and facilitator. Sarah has worked extensively with companies like Cardboard Citizens and Clean Break, in productions including *Sounds Like an Insult*, *Frientimacy* and *Hours 'Till Midnight*.

### **Katherine Chandler and Nicole Hall**

Katherine is a writer. Her theatre credits include: *Thick as Thieves* (Clean Break), *Bird* (Royal Exchange Theatre/Sherman Theatre), *Parallel Lines* (Dirty Protest theatre/ Chapter Arts), *Before it Rains* (Sherman Theatre/ Bristol Old Vic), *Hood* (National Theatre), *Buddy* (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama/ The Gate), *The Silly Kings*, *Peggy's Song* (National Theatre Wales), *The Princess and the Pea*, *The Ugly Duckling* (Sherman Theatre), *Spent* (Clean Break), *Leaves on a Line* (Royal Court Theatre/ Dirty Protest Theatre).

Katherine will be working with Nicole Hall. Nicole most recently performed in *Not Pretty Like the Rainbow* (Clean Break/Bunker Theatre, 2019). Her credits include: *Deep and Beneath* (Hampstead Theatre), *Whispered Dreams of the Middle Passage* (The Roundhouse), *Lonely* (Clean Break - Play in a Week), *Missing* (Clean Break), *Casualty* (BBC), *Harry and Cosh* (Channel 5), *Crimewatch UK* (BBC).

### **Vivienne Franzman and Kathryn O'Reilly**

Vivienne is a writer. Her theatre credits include: *Bodies* (Royal Court Theatre, 2017), *The Snow Queen* (Bristol Old Vic, 2016), *Pests* (Clean Break/The Royal Exchange, 2014), *Sounds Like an Insult* (Clean Break, UK Tour), *Open Court* (Royal Court, 2013), *The Witness* (Royal

Court, 2012) and *Mogadishu* (The Royal Exchange, 2010). Vivienne also co-facilitates Clean Break's workshop Rewriting Justice alongside Joint Artistic Director, Anna Herrmann.

Vivienne will be working with Kathryn O'Reilly. Kathryn's stage credits include *Close Quarters* (Sheffield Crucible), *Andersen's English* (Hampstead Theatre), *A View From Islington North* (Arts Theatre), *Our Country's Good* (Bolton Octagon), *Mixed Up North* (Wilton's Music Hall) all for Out of Joint, *Arms and The Man* (Watford Palace), *Skin in the Game* (Old Red Lion). Work for Clean Break includes *Seventeen Minutes* (Cambridge University), *Tangled Threads* (HMP Downview), and a reading of Vivienne's play *Pests* at Manchester Royal Exchange. As a playwright Kathryn has two plays published by Nick Hern Books, *Poisoned Polluted* (Old Red Lion, 2019), *Screwed* (Theatre503, 2016). Rehearsed readings include, *Severed* (Soho Theatre), *Caught* (Bush), *Klink Klank Echoes* (Tristan Bates).

### **Sonya Hale and Lucy Edkins**

Sonya is a playwright and facilitator. Her theatre credits include: *Blis-ta* (Clean Break/Bunker Theatre, rehearsed reading, 2019), *Bullet Tongue* (Big House, 2019), *Dean McBride* (Arcola Theatre, 2018, winner of the Heretic Voices competition), *Glory Voices* (Synergy Theatre/Theatre503, rehearsed reading, Synergy Theatre Project's national prison scriptwriting competition). Her work has also been performed in prisons and treatment centres and she has worked as a facilitator for Clean Break and The Outside Edge.

Sonya will be working with Lucy Edkins. Lucy was recently in Clean Break's production of *[BLANK]* at (Donmar Warehouse, 2019) and devised and performed in *Inside Bitch* (Clean Break/Royal Court, 2019).

### **Yasmin Joseph and River**

Yasmin Joseph is a London-based writer. Her debut play *J'Ouvert* premiered at Theatre503 in 2019 and she was nominated for the Evening Standard's Most Promising Playwright Award. Yasmin is the current writer-in-residence at Sister Pictures and is on attachment at the Royal Court Theatre as a winner of the Channel 4 Playwrights scheme. Yasmin is also under co-commission with Soho Theatre and The Actors Touring Company as part of the Soho Six, and The Place Theatre in Bedford with the Retired Caribbean Nurses Association. Her most recent work for Clean Break includes *Inside This Box* for the young artist development programme, directed by Stef O'Driscoll

Yasmin will be working with River. River was on Clean Break's Young Artist Development Programme in 2019 where she co-created and wrote *Belong* (Arcola & Lyric Hammersmith). She has recently been working with Cardboard Citizens as an Assistant Director and facilitator.

### **Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and TerriAnn Oudjar**

Morgan is a playwright and screenwriter. Her theatre credits include: *Emilia* (The Globe, 2018/West End Transfer, 2019/ International Tour, 2019), *The Wasp* (Hampstead Theatre/ Trafalgar Studios, 2015) and *Belongings* (Hampstead Theatre, 2011). She has co-written several acclaimed immersive site-specific plays with Katie Lyons including *You Once Said Yes*, *Above* and *Beyond* and *Once Upon a Christmas*. She is under commission with Headlong and her play *Typical Girls*, commissioned by Clean Break, is set to open at Soho Theatre and Sheffield Theatres in Autumn 2020.

Morgan will be working with TerriAnn Oudjar. TerriAnn most recently devised and performed in *Inside Bitch* (Clean Break/Royal Court, 2019) and was Assistant Director for *Not Pretty Like the Rainbow* (Clean Break UK tour 2019). Terri-Ann has appeared in *Grass* and *Killing Time* (BBC, 2004), *Stealing Lives* (Channel 4, 2004), *Rabbit Fever* (feature film, 2006) and *Trauma* (feature film, 2004).

### **Sabrina Mahfouz and Posy Sterling**

Sabrina is a writer and performer. Her writing credits include: *A History of Water in the Middle East* (Royal Court Theatre, 2019), *Noughts and Crosses* (UK Tour, 2019), *With a Little Bit of Luck* (Paines Plough), *Chef* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe, 2014 winner of Fringe First), *Clean* (Traverse Theatre, 2013), *Smashing it It: Working Class Artists on Life, Art and Making It Happen* (Westbourne Press, 2019) and *Poems for a Green and Blue Planet* (Hachette Children's, 2019). She is one of the inaugural writers in residence at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for 2019-20.

Sabrina will be working with Posy Sterling. Posy is an actor and singer. She trained at Italia Conti Acting and through Clean Break's Young Artist Development Programme during which she co-created and performed in *Belong* (Arcola & Lyric Hammersmith, 2019). She also performed in Clean Break's UK Tour of *Sweatbox* (2019). She was a singer with the Amy Winehouse Foundation on their first album released in 2015 with Island Records.

### **Chloë Moss and Sarah Jane Dent**

Chloë is a playwright and screenwriter. Her theatre credits include: *Sweatbox* (Clean Break, 2015 & 2019), *Run Sister Run* (Paines Plough/Soho Theatre/Sheffield Theatres, 2019), *Fatal Light* (Soho Theatre, 2010 & 2011), *This Wide Night* (Clean Break/Soho Theatre & Off Broadway, 2008, winner of the Susan Smith Blackburn prize), *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 and Headlong Theatre.

Chloë will be working with Sarah Jane Dent. Sarah has been in several Clean Break productions including *Back to The Future*, *Night Shift*, *Cesspool*, *Hear*, *Meal Ticket* and *There Are Mountains*. Her credits include: *Let There Be Love* (My Dad Productions, 2020), *Change* (Union theatre, 2019), *CYWIFE* (champ dog films, 2019), *Zina* (Vault Festival, 2018), She was also in the company for The Donmar Warehouse's All-Female *Shakespeare Trilogy* (2016).

### **Ambreen Razia and Natasha Sparkes**

Ambreen is an Actress & Writer from South London. Her critically acclaimed play *The Diary of a Hounslow Girl* toured nationally around the UK and has been adapted as a BBC three Pilot. Her play *POT* was published by Oberon books and completed its UK National Tour around the country, focusing heavily on girls in gangs and children growing up in the UK care system, She co-wrote and screened her short filmed *Relapse*, which explores the UK's prison system. Ambreen has performed and worked in women's prisons across the UK. Ambreen's has recently been commissioned by Clean Break Theatre company. Recent acting credits include - *Hounslow Diaries* (BBC), *Black Mirror* (Netflix), *This Way Up* (Channel 4) and *Trigonometry* (BBC 2). Awards include *Best Newcomer* (Asian Media Awards) and *Eastern Eye Emerging artist award*, 2017. Ambreen was nominated for the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Women of the World in 2017 and won best emerging writer at last years Edinburgh Television Awards.

Ambreen will be working with Natasha Jean Sparkes. Natasha most recently devised and performed in Clean Break and Cardboard Citizen's joint production *All the Lights Are On*, conceived by Paula Varjack and appeared in *The Stranger* (Netflix). Her acting credits also include *Call the Midwife*, *Hetty Feather*, *Broadchurch*, and *Silent Witness*.

#### **Danusia Samal and Funke Adeleke**

Danusia is an actress, writer and jazz singer. In 2018 Danusia wrote and performed *Busking It* (Shoreditch Town Hall/High Tide), a gig-theatre show inspired by her experiences as a London Underground busker. Danusia is resident playwright with Tamasha and won the Theatre503 International Playwriting Award with her play *Out of Sorts* (2018). Her acting credits include: *The Great* (Hulu), *Ghost in the Shell* (Paramount), *Rutherford & Son* (Sheffield Crucible), *Trap Street* (Kandinsky), *What If Women Ruled the World* (Manchester International Festival) and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (RSC).

Danusia will be working with Funke Adeleke. Funke is a singer and actor and has recently performed in Clean Break's UK tour of *Sweatbox* (2019). Funke was a lead singer in London Afrobeat Collective where she collaborated as a writer on the release of their album, *Food Chain*.

#### **Somalia Seaton and Eddy Emenike**

Somalia is a theatre practitioner, playwright and screenwriter, some of her theatre credits include: *Fall Of The kingdom*, *Rise of The Footsoldier* (RSC), *HOUSE* (Clean Break), *Crowning Glory* (Stratford East), *Mama's Little Angel* (The Yard) and *RED* (Tonic theatre/ Nick Hern). Somalia is the Creative Director of The Yellow Tent Collective – A Female Led Tribe of multi-disciplinary artists, academics and holistic practitioners producing events and productions.

Somalia will be working with Eddy Emenike. Eddy is an actor and singer. She has performed extensively with Clean Break including *Meal Ticket* (Latitude 2015) and *Sweatbox* (UK Tour, 2015). She also appeared in *See Me Now* and *Twelfth Night* at the Young Vic and has released an album and 2 singles with EMI.

#### **PRESS CONTACTS**

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