



PRESS RELEASE

CLEAN BREAK CELEBRATES 40 YEARS IN 2019: 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING SEASON TO INCLUDE ROYAL COURT THEATRE, ARCOLA THEATRE AND CARDBOARD CITIZENS

Clean Break celebrates four decades of making inspiring theatre with its 40th anniversary in 2019.

The year opens with the company's first season under its new Artistic Directors, **Anna Herrmann** and **Róisín McBrinn** - featuring bold new plays, performances and projects created by ground-breaking artists, high profile partners and collaborators, and Clean Break Members (women with experience of, or on the fringes of the criminal justice system).

Highlights of the 40th Anniversary Spring Season includes:

- **INSIDE BITCH** - a unique co-production with the **Royal Court Theatre** subverting media images of women in prison. Conceived by innovative theatre-makers **Stacey Gregg** and **Deborah Pearson**, devised and performed by **Clean Break Members** Lucy Edkins, Jennifer Joseph, Terri Ann Oudjar and Jade Small
- **BELONG** – a new play exploring what it means to belong, created by Brazen - Clean Break Young Artists - at the Arcola Theatre as part of Arcola Creative/Disruption Festival
- Clean Break's first ever partnership with **CARDBOARD CITIZENS**, in collaboration with performance and video artist **Paula Varjack** and women from both theatre companies
- The launch of **CLEAN BREAK'S REBEL VOICES**, an anthology of forty monologues from Clean Break's incredible canon of plays and writing over forty years
- Projects with leading theatremakers and women in prisons
- Further 2019 highlights to be announced

Anna Herrmann and Róisín McBrinn, Joint Artistic Directors: *'Forty years ago two incredible women in prison set up Clean Break, believing theatre could bring the hidden stories of women to a wider audience. Over the last four decades, the company has remained true to this vision, changing women's lives by providing opportunities, provoking conversation, and creating theatre of the highest calibre with the leading women theatre*

artists of the day. We are immensely proud to lead the company into its next chapter with a programme to launch our tenure that celebrates our legacy and signals a bold new future, with invaluable new relationships being forged and our Members at the heart of everything we do.'

CLEAN BREAK 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING SEASON 2019

Clean Break and the Royal Court Theatre

Inside Bitch

at Jerwood Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court

27 February – 23 March 2019 Press performance: Monday 4 March at 7pm

Conceived by Stacey Gregg and Deborah Pearson

Devised by Lucy Edkins, Jennifer Joseph, Terri Ann Oudjar and Jade Small

“You’ve seen Orange is the New Black. You’ve seen Locked Up. You’ve seen Bad Girls. So, what have we got that’s different? Well, for one, we’ve been to prison.”

Created by women who aren’t second-guessing, *Inside Bitch* is a devised ensemble performance from Clean Break’s Members, a playful subversion of the representation of women in prison and how things aren’t quite as seen on TV.

Clean Break presents

Belong

24 - 25 February 2019

Arcola Creative/Disruption Festival

By Brazen, Clean Break Young Artists

Belong, a new play by Brazen, Clean Break Young Artists as part of Arcola Creative/Disruption Festival. Examining how loneliness impacts on young women, their wellbeing, behaviours and choices, *Belong* is ultimately filled with hope about the power of community and connections to overcome difference. Created as part of Co-op Foundation funded youth loneliness project.

Clean Break and Cardboard Citizens

15 March 2019

at Clean Break studios

Cardboard Citizens and Clean Break join forces for the first time to explore the intersection between women’s experience of homelessness and the criminal justice system.

Performance and video artist Paula Varjack and women Members from both theatre companies present a multi-media provocation asking what needs to change to improve the lives of women today.

Clean Break’s Rebel Voices

May 2019

Clean Break celebrates 40 years of producing ground-breaking women writers and writing by our Members with this anthology of 40 monologues from 40 Clean Break voices.

Including monologues by Alice Birch, Theresa Ikoko, Lucy Kirkwood, Bryony Lavery and Winsome Pinnock this anthology, goes some way to embodying Clean Break's extraordinary canon and offers an exceptional resource for women actors of all ages.

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 writers and actors 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 is still the only theatre company of its kind remaining 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 Zawe Ashton, 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.

Recent success for the company has included receiving a Tonic Award for its dedication to changing women's lives through theatre and commitment to new writing. *Thick as Thieves* by Katherine Chandler, the company's first co-production with Theatr Clwyd premiered on 17 October 2018, before a tour of UK theatre and prison tour. Other activity during 2018 has included Alice Birch's *[BLANK]* - a co-commission with National Theatre Connections (which was performed by young people around the UK and at the National Theatre); participating in Artichoke's Processions project; and *Belong*, created by a group of young women with Natasha Marshall, Clean Break's Channel 4 Playwright In Residence and winner of a Most Promising New Playwright Offie for *Half Breed*.

The Company is led by a newly appointed three women leadership team; Joint Artistic Directors, Anna Herrmann and Róisín McBrinn, and Executive Director Erin Gavaghan.

PRESS CONTACTS

Nancy Poole 07957 342 850 / nancy@nancypoolepr.com
Sally Muckley 020 7482 8611 / sally.muckley@cleanbreak.org.uk

www.cleanbreak.org.uk
@CleanBrk
www.facebook.com/cleanbreak
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