

# CLEAN BREAK

## PRESS RELEASE

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### CLEAN BREAK: SPRING TO SUMMER 2021 A SEASON OF LIVE THEATRE, AUDIO AND FILM PRODUCTIONS, EXHIBITION, TRAINING AND EVENTS

After a year of online engagement, Clean Break announces a season of live and digital events celebrating and reconnecting its community of Members, artists and audiences. The company presents opportunities to experience live theatre in person, plays shared through audio and film, and an exhibition and digital timeline sharing the company's legacy. The season includes theatre from Ayesha Antoine, Deborah Bruce, Katherine Chandler, Sonya Hale, Morgan Lloyd Malcolm, Chloë Moss, and Clean Break Members.

**Anna Herrmann and Roisín McBrinn, Joint Artistic Directors:** *“As we come out of a third lockdown and into what we hope are more optimistic times, we are delighted to share our new season. This season typifies our commitments for the future – an increased investment in our digital voice with a new short film and audio drama, a celebration of our campaigning roots with I am a theatre - our archive exhibition, and a desire to be back together to share live theatre in an outdoor production at our home in Kentish Town. We are especially proud that the season contains so much work created by, or in collaboration with, our Members. We look forward to being with our audiences online, in our building, and in Swiss Cottage Gallery - coming together again in all these spaces as brighter times begin.”*

**Audio drama: *BLIS-TA* by Sonya Hale**

FREE (donations welcome). Available from 18 May on Spotify, iTunes, Stitcher and Soundcloud  
Accessible via the Clean Break website [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/blis-ta](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/blis-ta)

Kat and Cherry meet on the streets. Kat is wily, funny, and fierce; Cherry is a lost dreamer. *Blis-ta* is the story of their adventures to survive as homeless girls and the transformative power of friendship.

Written by the late Sonya Hale, playwright and Clean Break Member, this is a wild tale of resilience, hidden homelessness, the lengths women go to for survival.

*Blis-ta* is directed by Róisín McBrinn, performed by Ambreen Razia and Ria Zmitrowicz, composition and sound design by Helen Skiera, and dramaturgy by Gillian Greer and produced by Mimi Findlay, with an introduction by Clean Break Patron, Lucy Kirkwood. It is accompanied by a live, online event discussing women and hidden homelessness on 19 May.

**Short film: *SWEATBOX* by Chloë Moss**

FREE (donations welcome). Streaming from 8 June on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram  
Accessible via the Clean Break website [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox-film](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox-film)

Three women sit in a prison van outside HMP Bronzefield, each caught up in their own worlds as they anticipate what's next. *Sweatbox* offers a glimpse into the experience of women as they are pulled away from their lives and transported to prison.

Chloë Moss's highly original *Clean Break* play has toured the UK in a prison van since its premiere at the Latitude Festival in 2015 and has been transformed into an electric adaptation for the screen.

*Sweatbox* is directed by Anna Herrmann, performed by Clean Break Members Funke Adeleke, Jade Small, Posy Sterling and Sarah-Jane Dent and produced by Quiet Storm, founders of *Create Not Hate*.

**Exhibition: *I AM A THEATRE – 40 YEARS OF CLEAN BREAK***

FREE (booking required, donations welcome).

Swiss Cottage Gallery, 24 June – 31 July (booking opens 12 May)

Booking and information: [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/iamatheatre](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/iamatheatre)

Clean Break's exhibition *I am a theatre* celebrates the company's 40-year history as a radical theatre company, documenting its heritage through previously unseen archival material and specially commissioned interviews and installations. Its title comes from a poem written by Abigail, a woman with lived experience of prison who contributed to Clean Break's 1987 project *Voices from Prison*.

The 40-year retrospective is co-designed by regular Clean Break collaborator Miriam Nabarro and Liz Whitbread, a designer and Member of Clean Break. Alongside the exhibition, Clean Break launches a digital timeline on its website and presents a programme of events including an online screening of co-founder Jacqueline Holborough's play *Killers*, recorded for Channel 4 in 1984, and workshops led by prominent Clean Break artists.

**Live performance: *THROUGH THIS MIST***

at Clean Break, limited run from 15–17 July

Tickets: Pay What You Can £5 - £40

Booking: [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/throughthismist](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/throughthismist)

As the world was in the grip of loss and loneliness last summer, Clean Break commissioned a group of leading female artists and Clean Break Members through its 2 Metres Apart project, bringing them together to take solace in collaboration and creativity. *Through This Mist* shares some of the outcomes of those unions and the beginning of a return to live performance.

Performed outside in Clean Break's garden, this live performance features work created collaboratively by: Ayesha Antoine and Yvonne Wickham, Deborah Bruce and Sarah Cowan, Katherine Chandler and Nicole Hall, Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and TerriAnn Oudjar, and Chloë Moss and Sarah-Jane Dent.

**Online performance: *VOICES FROM PRISON***

FREE (donations welcome).

28 July at 6pm at [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/voices-prison](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/voices-prison)

Over the last year women in prison have become more invisible than ever, locked in cells for up to 23 hours a day with visits and activities suspended. In July, Clean Break invites women from all 12 women's prisons to create work in this moment, amplify their words and let their experiences be heard.

Inspired by a project of the same name from 1987 uncovered in Clean Break's archive, selected pieces will be published and performed by a cast of actors and Member artists in *Voices from Prison*, an event shared online and across Clean Break's channels.

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Alongside these public-facing events and activity, Clean Break continues to run its acclaimed **Members' Programme** (online and, planned from 7 June in person at its Kentish Town studios) providing a foundation of learning and skills in theatre performance, creativity and wellbeing as well as one-off masterclasses and events. With its partners at **Advance Minerva** and **Women in Prison**, the company will also provide creative workshops to women accessing Women's Centres over London.

In May, Clean Break launches the second **Helen Pringle Award**, an annual award in memory of Helen Pringle (Clean Break Senior Producer and Head of Finance, 2001-2017) who died in 2017. The award offers a £1000 bursary to support a Member in her Further/Higher Education and a mentorship by one of Clean Break's artistic community.

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## LISTINGS

### ***BLIS-TA* by Sonya Hale**

Online from 18 May

Accessible via the Clean Break website [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/blis-ta](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/blis-ta)

### **Women's homelessness: the issues, the solutions and the art**

Online on Wednesday 19 May, 5pm

Booking: [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/womens-homelessness-issues-solutions-and-art](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/womens-homelessness-issues-solutions-and-art)

### ***SWEATBOX* by Chloë Moss**

Online from Tuesday 8 June

Accessible via the Clean Break website [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox)

### ***Sweatbox* online screening and discussion with special guests**

Tuesday 8 June, 6pm

Booking: [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/sweatbox-screening-and-discussion](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/sweatbox-screening-and-discussion)

### ***I AM A THEATRE – 40 YEARS OF CLEAN BREAK***

at Swiss Cottage Gallery, 24 June – 31 July (booking opens 12 May)

Information: [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/iamatheatre](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/iamatheatre)

### ***THROUGH THIS MIST***

Live at Clean Break from 15 – 17 July

Booking: [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/throughthismist](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/throughthismist)

### ***VOICES FROM PRISON***

Online from 26 – 30 July

Accessible via the Clean Break website [www.cleanbreak.org.uk](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk)

### ***Voices From Prison* celebratory event with performances and panel discussion**

Wednesday 28 July, 6pm

Booking: [www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/voices-prison](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/events/voices-prison)

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## 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.

**Swiss Cottage Gallery** is part of Swiss Cottage Library, and managed by Camden Council's Libraries, Arts & Tourism Team.

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## CREDITS

### **Blis-ta**

By Sonya Hale

Performed by Ambreen Razia and Ria Zmitrowicz

Directed by Roísín McBrinn

Composition and Sound Design by Helen Skiera

Dramaturgy by Gillian Greer

Produced by Mimi Findlay

### **Sweatbox**

By Chloë Moss

Performed by Funke Adeleke, Jade Small and Posy Sterling with Sarah-Jane Dent as the Prison Officer

Directed by Anna Herrmann

Associate Producer Maya Ellis

Produced by Quiet Storm, founders of Create Not Hate

### **Through This Mist**

*The Birthday Message* by Ayesha Antoine and Yvonne Wickham

*Maren* by Chloë Moss and Sarah-Jane Dent

*Zoomface* by Deborah Bruce and Sarah Cowan

*Blank Pages* by Terri-Ann Oudjar and Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

*Step 8* by Katherine Chandler and Nicole Hall

*Carry Me Home* by Eddy Emenike

Performed by

Yvonne Wickham

Sarah-Jane Dent

Sarah Cowan

Helen Lymbery

Fiona Whitelaw

Catherine Rose Evans

Terri-Ann Oudjar

Nicole Hall

Eddy Emenike

Directed by Anna Herrmann and Róisín McBrinn, Joint Artistic Directors, Clean Break  
Produced by Mimi Findlay  
Assistant Producer Dezh Zhelyazkova

**I am a theatre**

Co-designed by Miriam Nabarro and Liz Whitbread  
Curated by Claire Stone

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