

PRESS RELEASE

ELLIE KENDRICK, WINSOME PINNOCK AND SARA FORBES JOIN CLEAN BREAK'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Clean Break is delighted to announce three new Trustee appointments in the lead up to its 40th birthday in 2019. Actor and writer Ellie Kendrick and award-winning playwright Winsome Pinnock (both of whom have strong connections to the company) and management consultant Sara Forbes join the company's Board with immediate effect.

Ellie was in the cast of Vivienne Franzmann's Clean Break play *Pests*, which included spending time working with women affected by the criminal justice system at Clean Break's studios and at HMP Askham Grange. Her recent acting credits include HBO's *Game of Thrones*, ITV's *Vanity Fair*, BBC's *Press*, *Gloria* at Hampstead Theatre and *Cyrano de Bergerac* at Southwark Playhouse. As a writer, her debut play *Hole* opens at the Royal Court Theatre in December as part of Royal Court's Jerwood New Playwrights Programme.

Winsome is an award-winning playwright, academic and dramaturg. Her work has been produced on the British stage and internationally since 1985. She was the first black British female writer to have a play produced by the Royal National Theatre and has been described as 'the Godmother of black British playwrights' by *The Guardian*. The prizes awarded to her work include the George Devine Award, The Pearson Plays on Stage Award and the Unity Theatre Trust Award. She was first commissioned by Clean Break in 1996 and has worked in HMP Holloway and Clean Break's studios. Her plays for the company include *Cleaning Up* and *Taken* (at Ovalhouse) and *Mules* (at Royal Court Theatre).

Sara will chair Clean Break's Finance Committee. A Director at KPMG in their Financial Services advisory practice. She has been with KPMG since 2013 where she has worked alongside many of the top UK and Global banks. She is focussed on bringing female talent through the firm and has been recognised as a driven female role model. She has previously spent five years with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Kim Evans OBE, Chair: *'I am delighted that Ellie, Sara and Winsome are joining the Board of Trustees as Clean Break enters its 40th birthday year in 2019. They each bring great expertise and a real commitment to helping the company achieve its ambitions and produce exceptional work that speaks truth to power. Ellie and Winsome are exciting theatre-makers who have worked with Clean Break in the past. Winsome is an award-winning playwright and Ellie a well-known actor who is now writing for the stage and screen. Sara is an experienced Director at KPMG and was recently shortlisted for a Women in Banking and Finance Award. She has been deeply involved in supporting the development of women in the financial sector and will be Chair of Clean Break's Finance Committee.'*

Ellie Kendrick: *'I am excited to join Clean Break's Board at this important moment in its history. As an actor, I have relished the opportunity to see the inside workings of this brilliant company's theatre-making process. I now look forward to taking up the position of Trustee as the organisation develops new methods to ensure its Members play an even more central role in its ground-shaking, change-making work in 2018 and beyond.'*

Winsome Pinnock: *'Clean Break has been one of the most important companies I have worked with during my career and I am proud to serve its work as part of its inspiring Board. This is an important moment in history for the company and for the theatre landscape - I want to work with the Board and team to ensure that the company leads the way.'*

Sara Forbes: *'Ensuring women's voices are heard has been an important part of my professional experience and something that draws me to Clean Break. I am delighted to be invited to lead its Finance Committee, supporting and enhancing the company's next steps with the skills and experience I have developed in the financial services industry, and ensuring its important stories continue to be told.'*

NOTES TO EDITORS

BIOGRAPHIES

ELLIE KENDRICK is a writer, performer and theatre-maker. Her theatre acting credits include: *Gloria* (Hampstead Theatre), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Southwark Playhouse), *Pests* (Clean Break/Royal Court Theatre/Royal Exchange Theatre co-production), *The Low Road* and *In the Republic of Happiness* (Royal Court Theatre), and the lead in the Globe Theatre's 2009 production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Participation in workshops and readings includes work at Royal Court Theatre, Almeida Theatre, Hampstead Theatre, National Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith and Open Works. For **Film and Television** credits across BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Sky and feature films on general release include *Game of Thrones*, *Press*, *Vanity Fair*, *The*

Levelling, An Education, Whisky Galore, Misfits, Chickens, Being Human, Upstairs Downstairs, and the lead role in the BBC adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

As a **writer**, her debut play *Hole* premieres at the Royal Court Theatre in November 2018. She started writing on the Royal Court Young Writers' Programme and has subsequently developed several works at the theatre, including *Tabs* (nominated top ten finalist for the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting 2015) and *Silly Girl* (a short play commission from Royal Court Theatre, performed in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs). She is developing two original television series with the BBC, and another with Channel 4. Her first radio play, *Chopsticks* (co-written with Jason Barker), will air on Radio 4 in January 2019. She is a winner of Foyle Young Poets competition.

WINSOME PINNOCK's stage plays include *Glutathione* (Young Vic), *The Principles of Cartography* (Bush Theatre), *Tituba* (Hampstead Theatre), *Cleaning Up* and *Taken* (for Clean Break at Ovalhouse), *IDP* and *One Under* (Tricycle Theatre), *The Stowaway* (for young people, Plymouth Theatre), *One Under* (Tricycle Theatre) *Beg Borrow or Steal* (Kuumba Community Arts Centre), *Mules* (Clean Break/Royal Court Theatre Upstairs), *Can you Keep a Secret?* (National Theatre Connections), *A Rock in Water* (Royal Court Theatre), *Leave Taking* (Liverpool Playhouse, National Theatre, Belgrade Theatre Coventry and Lyric Hammersmith), *A Hero's Welcome* (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs), *The Wind of Change* (Half Moon Theatre), *Picture Palace* (Womens Theatre Group). Radio plays include *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas* (adapted from autobiography by Maya Angelou for Radio 4), *Clean Trade* (BBC Radio 4), *Lazarus* (BBC Radio 3), *Her Father's Daughter* (BBC Radio 4), *Let Them Call it Jazz* (adapted from Jean Rhys' short story, BBC Radio 4), *Indiana* (adapted from novel by George Sand), *The Dinner Party* (BBC Radio 4), *Something Borrowed* (BBC Radio 4) and *Water* (BBC Radio 4). She co-wrote the screenplay *Bitter Harvest*. **Awards** include the George Devine Award, Pearson Plays on Stage Scheme Best Play of the Year Award, Unity Trust Theatre Award. She received a special commendation from the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She was Senior Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University and writer in residence at Holloway Prison, Clean Break, Royal Court Theatre, Kuumba Arts Community Centre, Tricycle Theatre, and National Theatre Studio. She is an Associate Professor in Drama at Kingston University and is currently commissioned by the Bush Theatre, London. Her new play, *Rockets and Blue Lights* is currently longlisted for the Alfred Fagon Award. Her play *Leave Taking* received a major revival at the Bush Theatre, London in 2018.

SARA FORBES is a Director in KPMG's Advisory practice. She has worked for KPMG since 2013 focussing predominantly in the Financial Services sector. She plays a key role supporting females and bringing talent through the firm. Sara was previously at Royal Bank of Scotland, which she joined through its Graduate scheme, holding a number of positions across the bank. Prior to this she was a Graduate Trainee with Northern Rock PLC. She has also set up a family children's clothing shop. Voluntary commitments have included teaching in Africa and coaching in a local school. She studied Law and Management Studies at the University of Leeds.

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.

Thick as Thieves, its current production by Katherine Chandler premieres at Theatr Clwyd on 11 October then tours to Salisbury Playhouse and Hull Truck Theatre. 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. As well as co-producing and touring *Thick as Thieves*, 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*.

PRESS CONTACTS

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

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

www.cleanbreak.org.uk

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