

## Clean Break appoints new Head of Artistic Programme

Clean Break is thrilled to announce **Róisín McBrinn** as its new Head of Artistic Programme. She joins the company from September following a successful career as a freelance director and dramaturg and until recently Associate Director at Sherman Cymru.

Clean Break welcomes Róisín at a particularly exciting time for the company, following exceptional critical and audience responses to its recent productions. Róisín succeeds Lucy Morrison who, after eight years with the company, is now Associate Director at the Royal Court Theatre.

**Lucy Perman MBE, Executive Director, Clean Break:** *"We are delighted to welcome Róisín to our team. We are impressed by her sensibility to our work, her passion for making socially and politically engaged theatre, and her relationship with writers, and look forward to seeing her ideas and ambition for our company unfold."*

Róisín was Associate Director at Sherman Cymru until February of this year, where directing credits included *Before It Rains* by Kath Chandler (co-production with Bristol Old Vic), *The Sleeping Beauties* and *Peter Pan* by Robert Alan Evans, and *The Get Together* and *It's A Family Affair* by Simon Crowther, as well as leading the nurturing and development of Welsh and Wales-based new writing for the company.

She has directed successful productions for some of the UK and Ireland's biggest venues including Sheffield Crucible (*Afterplay* by Brian Friel), West Yorkshire Playhouse (*Yerma* by Lorca), The Abbey Theatre (*No Escape* by Mary Raftery and *Perve* by Stacey Gregg) and the Bush Theatre (*66 Books*). She has developed new plays for Traverse Theatre, Bush Theatre, National Theatre, Soho Theatre, Abbey Theatre and Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester.

Róisín was the inaugural recipient of the Quercus Award 2010 run by the National Theatre and was resident at the National Theatre Studio in 2009. In 2004, she won the Young Vic/Jerwood Young Director's Award. She trained at the Donmar Warehouse under Michael Grandage where she was Resident Assistant Director in 2003.

**Róisín McBrinn:** *"I am thrilled to be appointed as the new Head of Artistic Programming at Clean Break. I have admired the company's work for many years and I am hugely buoyed by Clean Break's remit and legacy for implementing change through amazing theatre."*

*I will be inheriting commissions from some of the UK's most vital and progressive playwrights and look forward to extending and expanding the extraordinary work that Lucy Morrison has done for Clean Break over the past eight years. It is with great optimism and huge joy that I embrace the challenges of this exciting role."*

**Online:** [cleanbreak.org.uk](http://cleanbreak.org.uk) / [@CleanBrk](https://twitter.com/CleanBrk)

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(Notes to Editors overleaf)

### **Notes to Editors:**

**Clean Break** produces plays with women writers and actors at the heart of its work. Founded in 1979 by two women prisoners, the company today has an independent education programme delivering theatre opportunities to women whose lives have been affected by the criminal justice system. The company delivers a year-round programme of theatre productions, new writing projects and drama-based education from its North London studios and in women's prisons.

Forthcoming productions include Alice Birch's *Little on the inside*, directed by Lucy Morrison (Summerhall, Edinburgh Festival Fringe), and *Fingertips* by Suhayla El-Bushra and company-devised play *Meal Ticket* at Latitude. Recent productions have included Vivienne Franzmann's *Pests* (Royal Court Theatre, Royal Exchange Theatre, touring), Katie Hims' *Billy the Girl* (Soho Theatre), Alice Birch's *Little on the inside* (Almeida and Latitude), Rebecca Prichard's *Dream Pill* (Almeida, Edinburgh Fringe 2011), Sonya Hale's *Hours til Midnight* (Latitude, Southbank Centre and touring), Chloë Moss's *There Are Mountains* (HMP Askham Grange), Sam Holcroft's *Dancing Bears* and Chloë Moss's *Fatal Light* (Latitude 2011), and *Charged*, written by six of the UK's foremost contemporary playwrights in 2010, revived as *Re-Charged* in 2011 (Soho Theatre). Writers currently commissioned by the company include Zawe Ashton, Alice Birch, Rachel De-laHay, Suhayla El-Bushra, Stacey Gregg, Sonya Hale, Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and Roz Wylie.