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Clean Break presents

## ***THIS WIDE NIGHT***

by Chloë Moss, directed by Lucy Morrison / cast: Cathy Owen, Jan Pearson

Live Theatre Newcastle on 17 & 18 September; Drum Theatre, Plymouth from 23 to 27 September

Prison tour from 29 September to 10 October

*This Wide Night* is a tender portrayal of two women trying to start over. On release from prison, Lorraine heads straight to Marie's. They used to share everything inside, but find the friendship that once protected them now threatens to smother the fragile freedom they have found.

***'A compelling evening of theatre, packed with humour and poignancy in equal measure. Good two-handers are a real treat - and this is one of the best I've seen.'*** [whatsonstage.com](http://whatsonstage.com) \*\*\*\*

**Chloë Moss** joins a wealth of leading female playwrights to be commissioned by Clean Break, an acclaimed company which works with women affected by the criminal justice system and uses theatre for personal and political change. Her play opened at Soho Theatre to critical acclaim in July and tours to Newcastle, Plymouth and a number of women's prisons.

***'Raw and riveting'*** The Times \*\*\*\*

Chloë wrote the play after spending time in Cookham Wood prison (which has since been re-rolled as a young offenders' institution for young men), conducting writing workshops and speaking to women one-on-one. During this process, Chloë became interested in the experiences of long-serving offenders, how vital their friendships are, and what life is like for women resettling into society after release.

*"After working in HMP Cookham Wood, I had enough material to write 50 different plays. I decided to concentrate on two aspects: the uniqueness of relationships formed in prison - and if they are able to exist in another context; and resettlement - particularly of women who have spent a long time in prison and who are released at a point in their lives when starting afresh can feel like a very hopeless prospect."* **Chloë Moss**

Clean Break was founded in 1979 by two women in prison. The company now 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, alongside professional development, training and advocacy. Each year the company commissions a new play, described as **"one of the toughest gigs a female playwright can get"** (Daily Telegraph). Previous writers commissioned by the company include **Tanika Gupta, Zinnie Harris, Lin Coghlan, Bryony Lavery, Rebecca Prichard** and **Winsome Pinnock**. **Naomi Wallace** and **Lucy Kirkwood** are currently under commission.

**Press enquiries: Nancy Poole on 07957 342 850 · [nancy@nancypoolepr.com](mailto:nancy@nancypoolepr.com)**

### LISTINGS' DETAILS:

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Live Theatre Newcastle</b>
<b>Dates and times</b>	17 & 18 September at 7.30pm
<b>Box office</b>	0191 232 1232
<b>Ticket prices</b>	£8 (£6)

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Drum Theatre Plymouth</b>
<b>Dates and times</b>	23 to 27 September at 7.45pm
<b>Box office</b>	01752 267222
<b>Ticket prices</b>	£12 (£8)

(Notes to Editors overleaf)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Chloë Moss's** previous credits include *A Day in Dull Armour* (winner of the Young Writers' Festival 2004, Royal Court), *How Love is Spelt* (opening at the Bush Theatre prior to a US première at the Summer Play Festival 2005 in New York), *Christmas is Miles Away* (Manchester Royal Exchange and Bush Theatre), *The Way Home* (Liverpool Everyman) and *Catch* (Royal Court, written collaboratively with April De Angelis, Laura Wade, Stella Feehily and Tanika Gupta). She has been a Writer-in-Residence at the Bush and with Paines Plough and also writes for television. She is currently under commission to Paines Plough and the Royal Court.

**Lucy Morrison** is Clean Break's Head of New Writing. Formerly Literary Manager of Paines Plough, she has worked with many of the country's most exciting playwrights including Dennis Kelly, Abi Morgan, Sarah Kane, Mark Ravenhill, Enda Walsh and Jack Thorne. She directed *Product* by Mark Ravenhill (Traverse Theatre at the Edinburgh Festival, Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, Bush Theatre and European tour). She also directed *Fear and Misery* as part of *Ravenhill for Breakfast* at the Traverse Theatre at the Edinburgh Festival 2007.

**Jan Pearson's** recent credits include *Little Eagles* (RSC), *Realism* (National Theatre of Scotland), *The Cleansing of Constance Brown* (Stan's Cafe), *Long Time Dead* (Paines Plough) and, for television, *Holby City* and *The Bill*.

**Cathy Owen's** credits include *A Chaste Mind in Cheapside* (Almeida), *Silent Engine* (Pentabus), *Macbeth* (Ludlow Festival) and *The Taming of the Shrew/The Tamer Tamed* (Arcola).

### **CLEAN BREAK:**

*"At a time when the Government's Corston Review has thrown a spotlight on women's imprisonment and the far reaching detrimental effects it has on women, their families and society, Clean Break's plays are more relevant than ever. Our plays bring alive the personal stories of women caught up in the criminal justice system and reveal the human cost of such a punitive response"* **Lucy Perman MBE** (Executive Director, Clean Break)

Clean Break's artistic and education programmes provide unique and extraordinary opportunities for women with personal experience of the criminal justice system, professional playwrights, and theatre and prison audiences. The current programme includes:

- A tour of its annual commission to theatre and prisons
- Comprehensive arts-based education programme enabling women to develop confidence, gain creative skills and qualifications – at its centre in North London, in prisons and in partnership with women's prison resettlement units
- Clean Break and Paines Plough - a writing residency in a secure hospital, to be followed by a co-commission
- *PS From Clean Break*, a post-show evening of newly commissioned short plays by professional playwrights to run alongside *This Wide Night*
- *Changing Your Story* - a writing development programme with a professional emphasis for female writers who have an offending background or are at risk of offending
- *Fugue* by Abi Morgan in HMP Downview – the first ever play, as part of the National Theatre's New Connections Programme, to be performed in a secure setting
- *On The Missing* – a prison education tour of a new play in partnership with Action for Prisoners' Families with a cast of former Clean Break students
- Providing tailor-made training for people working with vulnerable groups and artists wishing to work in this area
- Regularly contributing to the Theatre in Prisons Unit on the Central School of Speech and Drama's MA course

## **ENDS**