

CLEAN BREAK

CLEAN BREAK ANNOUNCES NEW YOUNG COMPANY WITH SUPPORT OF LEADING DRAMA SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS.

Clean Break welcomes nine Members to its brand new **Young Company** – a training programme for young women and non-binary people aged 18 - 25 who have lived experiences of the criminal justice system or who may be at risk or on the fringes of it.

From October 2025 – July 2026, this new cohort of young Members will learn acting and theatre-making skills, receive personalised wraparound support and perform a newly commissioned play. The programme will be delivered by artists, facilitators and leading Drama Schools, including LAMDA, RADA, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Mountview and The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - plus support from industry partners Roundhouse and AKTA Photography.

Jacqueline Stewart, Clean Break's Head of Participation and Deputy CEO: *"I am thrilled to welcome our new Young Company and to hear their fresh, uncompromising voices resonate around Clean Break. This remarkable group brings boundless talent and creativity. It is a privilege to witness them emerge and disrupt the current landscape."*

Young Company Member: *"Joining Clean Break's first ever Young Company is such a meaningful step in developing my voice as an artist and storyteller. I'm at a point in my journey where I want to grow creatively and personally to build confidence, community and a sense of belonging in the theatre world. Clean Break offers a safe, supportive and inspiring space to discover who I am as a performer, and to create work that is honest, bold and full of heart."*

Terri Cash, Widening Participation and Access Manager, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama: *"The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama is proud to continue its long-standing partnership with Clean Break, a pioneering theatre company. Over the years, Central has welcomed and supported Clean Break alumni as they've developed into the theatre makers of tomorrow. Together, we're now excited to champion the incredible talent of Clean Break's Young Company — nurturing their creativity, amplifying their voices, and supporting their next steps towards a future in the performing arts."*

Laura Kwiatkowski, Access & Widening Participation Manager, LAMDA: *"LAMDA are delighted to work with Clean Break's Young Company. This programme has the needs and aspirations of its Members at the heart, and we are thrilled that LAMDA's expert tutors can support the vital development of these young, underrepresented artists."*

Professor Orla O'Loughlin, Vice-Principal & Director of Drama, Guildhall School of Music & Drama: *"I have long admired the life-changing work of Clean Break, and at*

Guildhall School we're delighted to join our fellow drama schools in supporting their new Young Company. We look forward to seeing the work that the cohort produces in 2026."

Rio Hayles, Access and Participation Lead, RADA: *"We are pleased to collaborate with the Clean Break Young Company, an organisation whose commitment to creativity, inclusion, and empowerment through the arts reflects a vital part of RADA's mission. This partnership provides a valuable opportunity to support emerging talent, amplify diverse voices, and strengthen pathways into professional training and the wider creative industry."*

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Images (Credit Clean Break):

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/9hf8xcciwxljoha51b6oe/ADSkokf7wnaPyOroXwZNCew?rlkey=grft5xk4tvizgvdxjkod6l6hm&st=7uifz7f8&dl=0>

Photo credit: Young Company Members pictured left to right: (back row first): Rebecca, Cheyanne, Ferah, Becki / (front row) K and Myles. Not pictured - Lu, Alisha and Young Company Member X.

Clean Break changes lives and changes minds through theatre – on stage, in prisons 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 in prison who believed that theatre could bring the hidden stories of women who are criminalised to a wider audience, Clean Break remains true to these roots. The company has been inspiring playwrights and captivating audiences with award-winning plays on the complex theme of women and criminalisation for over four decades.

Clean Break's 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. Current productions include *Blis-ta* (an audio drama by the late Sonya Hale, BBC Audio Drama Award winner), *Sweatbox* (a film of Chloë Moss's acclaimed play set in a prison van) and *Hope* (a film by Nicole Hall, Michelle Hamilton, Kirsty Housley, Carina Murray, Natasha Jean Sparkes, and River, available on Clean Break's Knowledge Hub).

Recent productions include *Scenes from Lost Mothers* by Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti (national tour), *The Trials and Passions of Unfamous Women* (co-created by Janaina Leite, Lara Duarte & Athena Maria, Yvonne Wickham, Sarah-Jane Dent, Dominique Lavine Wood-Whyte, Kim Teresa (KT) Marsh and Rachel Valentine Smith, LIFT Festival 2024), *Dixon and Daughters* (by Deborah Bruce at National Theatre, now available on NT at Home), *Catch* (a small-scale touring play by Sonya Jalaly), *Favour* (by Ambreen Razia, Bush Theatre) and *Typical Girls* (by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm, Sheffield Crucible).

If you are interested in supporting Clean Break's life changing work, please visit cleanbreak.org.uk/support

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