

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Clean Break announces Gillian Greer as Creative Associate

Clean Break welcomes playwright and dramaturg **Gillian Greer** as its new Creative Associate as part of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Within her role, Gillian will extend the dramaturgical and developmental rigour of the company's core commissions during and beyond its celebratory year.

**Anna Herrmann and Róisín McBrinn, Joint Artistic Directors of Clean Break:** *'We are absolutely thrilled that Gill has joined us for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We are deeply impressed by Gill's energy, passion, knowledge of theatre and strong dramaturgical skills. We know she will make a significant contribution to the company, working with our current commissioned writers, developing our Members' voices and helping to connect us with new and unique female artists.'*

**Gillian Greer:** *'It's an absolute honour to be joining the team at Clean Break for their landmark 40<sup>th</sup> year. The company is a powerhouse of formidable women with an incredible mission at its heart that I have admired and I look forward to supporting the amazing work that they do.'*

As a script reader, Gillian has worked with the artistic teams at Theatre503, The Abbey Theatre, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Mercury Theatre, National Theatre and more. In 2018, she joined the team at Vault Festival as Head of Theatre and Performance, where she programmed over 400 productions in collaboration with the Vault Festival creative team. As a playwright, her debut play *Petals* was nominated for the Irish Times Theatre Award for Best New Play in 2015, and she has since seen her short work performed and published in Ireland, London, Edinburgh and New York. Last year her second full length play *Meat* was shortlisted for the Theatre503 International Playwriting Award.

With special thanks to **Jon and NoraLee Sedmak** for their support of this role.

Clean Break celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary throughout 2019. Its Spring season includes *Inside Bitch*, conceived and co-directed by Stacey Gregg and Deborah Pearson, devised and performed by Lucy Edkins, Jennifer Joseph, Terri Ann Oudjar and Jade Small (at Royal Court Theatre from 27 February to 23 March); *Belong*, a new play by Brazen – Clean Break's Young Artists – as part of Arcola Theatre's Creative/Disruption Festival (24–25 February) and Lyric Hammersmith Evolution 2019 (7-8 March); *All The Lights Are On*, a project in partnership with Cardboard Citizens (at Clean Break, 15 March); and *Clean Break: Rebel Voices*, an anthology of 40 monologues from 40 Clean Break voices published by Methuen.

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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 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, Katherine Chandler, 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.

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. *Thick as Thieves* by Katherine Chandler, the company's first co-production with Theatr Clwyd premiered on 17 October 2018, before a tour of UK theatre and prison tour. Other 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*.

The Company is led by a recently appointed three-women leadership team: Joint Artistic Directors, **Anna Herrmann** and **Róisín McBrinn**, and Executive Director **Erin Gavaghan**.

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