

Nancy Poole PR press release

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THE 2016 LONGFORD PRIZE IS AWARDED TO THE DONMAR WAREHOUSE, CLEAN BREAK AND YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY'S PRISON PARTNERSHIP PROJECT.

Clean Break is delighted to share the news that **The 2016 Longford Prize** has been awarded to the **Donmar Warehouse, Clean Break** and **York St John University's Prison Partnership Project** for work carried out over the last 4 years in women's prisons and as part of the Donmar's all-female Shakespeare Trilogy.

The Longford Prize recognises the contribution of an individual, group or organisation working in the area of penal or social reform in showing outstanding qualities in the following areas: humanity, courage, persistence and originality.

It is awarded annually by a prize committee on behalf of the trustees and patrons of the Longford Trust. From 2016, the prize winner will receive £5,000, thanks to sponsorship from The McGrath Charitable Trust, founded by Kevin and Kate McGrath. The awards' ceremony takes place as part of the annual Longford Lecture on Wednesday 16 November. The Longford Prize is organised in association with The Prison Reform Trust.

Clean Break has worked alongside the Donmar Warehouse at each stage of its all-women, prison-set Shakespeare trilogy. All three productions have starred Clean Break patron, Dame Harriet Walter alongside performances from graduates of Clean Break's education programme.

In this final year of the trilogy, Clean Break collaborates with the Donmar on a project that sees a group of Clean Break students working with both companies to explore the links between the lives of Shakespeare's characters and the lives we live today, creating a brand new piece of theatre by blending Shakespeare's text with their own words. The programme will climax by giving students an opportunity to perform their own original work on the Donmar stage on 2 December.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Clean Break uses theatre to transform the lives of women with experience of the criminal justice system. It commissions and produces plays telling their hidden stories and runs a theatre-based Education Programme in prisons and at its North London studios. Its most recent productions include Somalia Seaton's *House* and Chino Odimba's *Amongst the Reeds* in a Double-bill (Edinburgh Festival Fringe and The Yard Theatre), multi-authored play *Joanne* (Soho Theatre, Latitude Festival 2015 and RSC's Making Mischief Festival 2016), *Spent* by Katherine Chandler (touring conferences and Higher Education settings) and Vivienne Franzmann's *Pests* (Royal Court Theatre, Royal Exchange Theatre + tour).

@CleanBrk / cleanbreak.org.uk

Donmar Warehouse Shakespeare Trilogy

Phyllida Lloyd's acclaimed, 2012 all-female production of William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* placed the play in a women's prison and ignited debate around gender, equality and aspiration. It was followed in 2014 with Phyllida and actor Dame Harriet Walter reuniting for the second instalment with *Henry IV*. Autumn 2016 sees the climax of this extraordinary creative collaboration with the *Shakespeare Trilogy* at Donmar King's Cross. *Julius Caesar* and *Henry IV* will be re-staged alongside a third instalment, *The Tempest*, to create a ground-breaking cultural event. The trilogy will play a 13-week repertory season until 17 December 2016.

@donmarwarehouse / donmarwarehouse.com

(Notes to Editors continue overleaf)

York St John University's Prison Partnership Project

The Prison Partnership Project was conceived between York St John University Theatre Department and HMP Askham Grange in 2013. It was born out of the desire to provide a creative arts partnership between the arts, education and the prison service facilitating a weekly year round drama and music provision in prison.

The partnership brings together two different kinds of communities, university students and female prisoners and aims to enable each to encounter each other across profound social barriers; two communities who in other circumstances wouldn't normally meet. The aim being, for both communities to engage in an educational arts process together and to be part of a transformative learning experience that emphasises collaboration, creativity, dialogue and addresses issues of social concern.

@ysjtheatre

The Longford Trust was established in 2002 by friends, family and admirers of Lord Longford (1905-2001) to celebrate his achievements and to further the goals he pursued in the fields of social and prison reform. The Longford Trust organizes an annual Longford Lecture on questions of social and penal reform. Past speakers have included President Mary McAleese of Ireland, Clive Stafford Smith, Sir Hugh Orde, Lady (Brenda) Hale, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Lord (Ian) Blair, Cherie Booth QC, Archbishops John Sentamu and Desmond Tutu, Will Self and Bianca Jagger. It also awards an annual Longford Prize to an outstanding individual or organization working in the field of prison and social reform. It funds Longford Scholarships for ex-prisoners who want to rebuild their lives through education.

longfordtrust.org