

CLEAN BREAK BRINGS NEW PLAY 'THE EMPTY' TO WANDSWORTH

The Empty is a new Clean Break commission which will premiere at Tara Theatre in May for a limited run.

The play was written by Emma Dennis-Edwards, will be directed by Lakesha Arie-Angelo and feature a cast of Clean Break Young Company Members.

"World's fucked, you needed something to look forward to. Ta fucking dah, here it is."

Mikayla is back and ready to reclaim her spot as leader of climate activist collective 'GenZero'. Mei however, has other plans for the group. She's secured them a squat in a young couple's lavish second home in the countryside; has taken their activism in a new 'digital' direction which is going viral; and has gotten a hold of a secret that could solidify her position as the group's rightful leader.

Under Mei's new influence, GenZero organise a bold and risky action to gain attention for their cause. But the plan backfires, secrets surface and faceless enemies become real, forcing everyone to confront their own positions in the system they are trying to tear down. With repair proving impossible, GenZero are left with a devastating question: what must be destroyed in order to begin again?

About Clean Break

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) - all 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).

About Clean Break's Young Company

Clean Break's Young Company is 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.

Since October 2025, the company has been taking part in acting and theatre-making training, 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.

The company has also received personalised wraparound support from Clean Break's specialist team, plus support from industry partners Roundhouse and AKTA Photography.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Press Contact: Nadia Dorr / nadia.dorr@cleanbreak.org.uk

Listing Information:

Venue: Tara Theatre, 356 Garratt Lane, London SW18 4ES

Dates: 13 – 15 May 2026

Box office: events@cleanbreak.org.uk

Tickets: £8 - £20 + fees

Ticket booking link: <https://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/the-empty/>

CLEAN BREAK

Images can be found here (credit Marta Parszeniew):

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/eibks2df4wy09028ozuz5/AliDjonTyMHmzlJJM ASVZms?rlkey=xlimmu4h2ozdhuubuokzuweuz&st=jjd3uo8n&dl=0>

Credits

Playwright: Emma Dennis-Edwards

Director: Lakesha Arie-Angelo

Cast: Alisha, Becki Douglass, Cheyanne Howat, Ferah Jennela, Jekaterina Sobole, Myles. S, Tallulah Wheeler, Youyang Song



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