



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Clean Break and Methuen Drama

### **REBEL VOICES: MONOLOGUES FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN**

### **An anthology of 40 monologues from 40 years of Clean Break Available from 2 May, Launch Event on 12 May at the Donmar Warehouse**

Over 40 years, Clean Break has commissioned some of the most progressive and brilliant women writers to write ground-breaking plays, alongside developing the writing skills of the women it works with in its London studios and in prisons. As part of the company's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, Methuen Drama publishes a collection of monologues from this canon.

*Rebel Voices: Monologues for Women by Women* celebrates the opportunities inherent when women represent themselves. Offering performers a diverse set of monologues reflecting a range of characters in age, ethnicity and lived experience, the material is drawn from a mix of published and unpublished works.

The anthology represents Clean Break's past, present and future: with pieces from its early history by writers including co-founder Jacqueline Holborough; through the 80s, 90s and 00s including leading playwrights such as Bryony Lavery, Winsome Pinnock and Lucy Kirkwood; to its most current writers including Alice Birch and Natasha Marshall. It is edited by Clean Break's Joint Artistic Director Róisín McBrinn and writer/producer/dramaturg Lauren Mooney, with an introduction by Lucy Perman MBE (Clean Break, Executive Director from 1997 – 2018).

To mark the release of the anthology, Clean Break hosts an evening of readings at the Donmar Warehouse on Sunday 12 May, performed by a cast including Daisy Bartle, Jackie Clune, Jacqueline Holborough, Michelle Greenidge, Jennifer Joseph, Martina Laird, Ann Mitchell, Danusia Samai, Unique Spencer, Lia Williams and Susan Wokoma.

**Indira Varma, Actor:** *'I fumed and laughed and cried. A rich, varied and timely anthology of monologues for Everywoman. Clean Break is giving actors of ALL ages, ethnicities and backgrounds an opportunity to shine.'*

**Zawe Ashton, Actor and Clean Break Patron:** *'Clean Break has an archive of incredible monologues for women; women whose voices aren't often heard and whose experience is rarely given this level of complexity and humanity... A special resource that I wish had been around when I was at drama school.'*

**Kathy Burke, Theatre Director:** *'Rebel Voices is a compelling anthology and a unique insight into a brilliant, ground-breaking theatre company.'*

## **Excerpts of plays included in Rebel Voices: Monologues for Women by Women:**

Little on the inside by Alice Birch  
[BLANK] by Alice Birch  
Black Crows by Linda Brogan  
Jadan by Danni Brown  
Joanne by Deborah Bruce  
Didn't Die by Annie Caulfield  
Thick as Thieves by Katherine Chandler  
Spent by Katherine Chandler  
Apache Tears by Lin Coghlan  
Head-Rot Holiday by Sarah Daniels  
Trainers by Raina Dunne AKA Titch  
Fingertips by Suhayla El-Bushra  
Pests by Vivienne Franzmann  
Sounds like an Insult by Vivienne Franzmann  
Blis-ta by Sonya Hale  
Daddycation by Katie Hims  
The Garden Girls by Jacqueline Holborough  
Killers by Jacqueline Holborough  
FKA Queens by Theresa Ikoko  
Firm by Daisy King  
it felt empty when the heart went at first but it is alright now by Lucy Kirkwood  
Wicked by Bryony Lavery  
That Almost Unnameable Lust by Rebecca Lenkiewicz  
Typical Girls by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm  
Amazing Amy by Laura Lomas  
Inside a Cloud by Sabrina Mahfouz  
A Bitch like Me by Natasha Marshall  
Fatal Light by Chloë Moss  
This Wide Night by Chloë Moss  
Amongst the Reeds by Chinonyerem Odimba  
Te Awa I Tahuti (The River that Ran Away) by Rena Owen  
Mules by Winsome Pinnock  
Taken by Winsome Pinnock  
Yard Gal by Rebecca Prichard  
Joanne by Ursula Rani Sarma  
Red by Anna Reynolds  
House by Somalia Seaton  
Mercy Fine by Shelley Silas  
21.23.6.15 by Sandrine Uwayo  
And I and Silence by Naomi Wallace

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### **LISTINGS**

**Rebel Voices: Monologues for Women by Women** is available to purchase from 2 May 2019, from  
<https://www.bloomsbury.com/rebel-voices-monologues-for-women-by-women-9781350097506/>  
RRP £12.99

### **Clean Break's Rebel Voices**

Date + Time: Sunday 12 May 2019 at 6.30pm

Venue: Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LX  
Tickets: £32 (includes a copy of *Rebel Voices: Monologues for Women by Women: Celebrating 40 Years of Clean Break Theatre Company*, RRP £12.99)  
Box office: 020 3282 3808  
[www.donmarwarehouse.com/production/7311/rebel-voices/](http://www.donmarwarehouse.com/production/7311/rebel-voices/)

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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, 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.

Clean Break launched its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with *Inside Bitch* at the Royal Court Theatre, *Belong* at Arcola Disruption Festival and Lyric Hammersmith Evolution Festival, and *All The Lights Are On*, the company's first collaboration with Cardboard Citizens. Season Two of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will include *[BLANK]*, a Clean Break commission co-produced by the Donmar Warehouse, *Sweatbox* by Chloë Moss, performed in a prison van at Chichester Festival Theatre and travelling across the UK, plays by Sonya Hale and Natasha Marshall at HighTide Festival, and A series of talks and events featuring conversations with Clean Break's Founders, Southall Black Sisters, Deborah Coles and Sonali Naik QC.

The Company is led by Joint Artistic Directors, **Anna Herrmann** and **Róisín McBrinn**, and Executive Director **Erin Gavaghan**.

**Methuen Drama** has been a leading publisher of canonical works of dramatic literature for over a century, beginning in 1889 with the publication of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Today, Methuen Drama provides a thriving frontlist of leading contemporary playwrights, theatre scholarship, performance and backstage guides along with Drama Online – the leading online subject hub for playtexts, audio and video resources.

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## **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Róisín McBrinn** is a theatre director with over fifteen years' experience working in the UK, Ireland and internationally. She is the Head of Artistic Programme of Clean Break Theatre Company where she commissions, develops and directs theatre inspired by the experiences of women within and around the criminal justice system, by leading female writers. For Clean Break she has directed Joanne (Soho Theatre and RSC) and House/Amongst The Reeds (Yard Theatre) and will direct a co-production with Theatr Clwyd of a new play by Katherine Chandler this Autumn.

Róisín has directed for the Donmar Warehouse (Novecento), Sheffield Theatres (Afterplay),

West Yorkshire Playhouse (Yerma), Prime Cut (Villa/Discurso), The Abbey Theatre (No Escape, Perve, Heartbreak House) and Sherman Theatre (Before it Rains, Sleeping Beauties and It's A Family Affair).

**Lauren Mooney** is a writer, producer and dramaturg. She joined Clean Break in 2016 and worked as their Literary Producer until autumn 2018, supporting emerging writers and producing the company's engagement work in prisons. Since 2015, she has co-run Kandinsky Theatre Company with director James Yeatman, where her work as producer and co-writer includes Dog Show, Still Ill and Trap Street (all New Diorama Theatre). In 2019, the company's work will include Dinomania (New Diorama Theatre), There Is a Light that Never Goes Out (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester) and a transfer of their 2018 show Trap Street to the Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz in Berlin. She is a graduate of the Royal Court Introduction to Playwriting course (2015) and has written extensively about theatre, arts and culture for Exeunt, The Stage and The Guardian. She is currently the David Higham Scholar on the Creative Writing MA at University of East Anglia.

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## **PRESS CONTACTS**

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