



## PRESS RELEASE

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Clean Break presents

### **SWEATBOX**

By Chloë Moss, directed by Anna Herrmann, originally conceived by Imogen Ashby  
Touring the UK in a prison van from 12 June 2019

Press performances: Chichester Festival Theatre, Thursday 13 June 2019 at 5.30pm and 6pm

Chloë Moss's play *Sweatbox* invites audiences to enter the back of a prison van in which three women share their stories of arrival and anticipation as they are transported from court to prison, from prison to prison, from prison to court.

*Are we here?*

*Oi! What's goin' on?*

*Anyone there?*

*We're at HMP Bronzefield. They do this. Stop the van outside the gates then leave you sat there like battery hens.*

*Sweatbox* is an intimate production staged in a real prison van, to audiences of 12 at a time. This unique play was originally conceived and directed by Imogen Ashby in 2015, and performed at Latitude Festival, York St John's University, and at the National Theatre as part of *Our Country's Good: The Transforming Power of Art*. The 2019 revival includes Clean Break Members **Funke Adeleke** (*On Missing*, Cockpit Theatre), **Jade Small** (*Sweatbox* original cast member, *Inside Bitch* at Royal Court Theatre), and **Posy Sterling** (*Belong* at Arcola Theatre + Lyric Hammersmith), directed by the company's Joint Artistic Director **Anna Herrmann**.

From June onwards, the tour of *Sweatbox* will be accompanied by a mobile exhibition created by artist Miriam Nabarro, celebrating the 40 years of the company. Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the exhibition will be featured in the prison van.

The production is a highlight of Clean Break's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Two, which also features the publication of *Rebel Voices – Monologues for Women by Women* (published by Methuen Drama), and *[BLANK]* by Alice Birch, a Clean Break and Donmar Warehouse co-production (premiering at Donmar Warehouse in October).

Clean Break would like to acknowledge the generosity of all its funders and supporters. In particular, Arts Council England and those individuals who supported *Sweatbox* by donating to the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2018.

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### LISTINGS DETAILS

**Chichester Festival Theatre**, Oaklands Park, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6AP

Wednesday 12 – Saturday 15 June, various times

Press performances: Thursday 13 June 2019 at 5.30pm and 6pm

[www.cft.org.uk/whats-on/event/sweatbox](http://www.cft.org.uk/whats-on/event/sweatbox)

£10 (£5 Prologue tickets)

**Clean Break**, 2 Patshull Road, London, NW5 2LB

Friday 28 June, at 5.30pm, 6pm and 6.30pm

[www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox](http://www.cleanbreak.org.uk/productions/sweatbox)

£10

**Snape Maltings**, Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Snape, Suffolk IP17 1SP

Saturday 24 August, 6 performances of 15 minutes, 12-3pm

[www.snapemaltings.co.uk/whats-on/sweatbox/#book](http://www.snapemaltings.co.uk/whats-on/sweatbox/#book)

Free (but must be booked)

**Orbit Festival 2019 at HOME**, 2 Tony Wilson Place, Manchester, M15 4FN

19 – 21 September, various times

[www.homemcr.org/production/clean-break-sweatbox/](http://www.homemcr.org/production/clean-break-sweatbox/)

£5

**Manchester Metropolitan University**, Cavendish Street, M15 6BR

7 – 13 October, various times and locations

For more information, contact Dezh Zhelyazkova

020 7482 8626 / [dezh.zhelyazkova@cleanbreak.org.uk](mailto:dezh.zhelyazkova@cleanbreak.org.uk)

Further venues and dates to follow.

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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's voices 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's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season One launched with *Inside Bitch* at the Royal Court Theatre, and included *Belong* at Arcola Disruption Festival and Lyric Hammersmith Evolution Festival, and *All The Lights Are On*, the company's first collaboration with Cardboard Citizens. In addition to the tour of *Sweatbox*, Season Two of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary includes *[BLANK]*, a Clean Break commission co-produced by the Donmar Warehouse, plays by Sonya Hale and Natasha Marshal 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**.

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### CREATIVE:

**Chloë Moss** is an accomplished playwright and screenwriter. Her celebrated play *This Wide Night* (Clean Break, Soho Theatre, 2008) won the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn prize and was subsequently produced off-Broadway, starring Edie Falco. Chloë has written numerous other plays including *The Gatekeeper* (Royal Exchange Theatre, 2012), *Fatal Light* (for Clean Break at Soho Theatre, 2010 + 2011), *Catch* (Royal Court, 2006), and *How Love Is Spelt* (Bush Theatre, 2004, + New York's Summer Play Festival, 2005). She is currently under commission to the Royal Court Theatre, Headlong, and Soho Theatre. Chloë has also written extensively for television. Most recently she has written on *Six Wives* (BBC One) and *Dickensian* (Red Planet Pictures), and written episodes for *New Tricks* (BBC One), *The Smoke* (Kudos), and *Prisoner's Wives* and *The Secret Diary Of A Call Girl* (Tiger Aspect). She has also written *Care*, a single drama for Warp Films and Sky Arts, and an original series *Switch*, co-written with Tim Price, for Touchpaper / ITV2.

**Anna Herrmann** has been working in the field of theatre and social change for thirty years, specialising in theatre and education with marginalised groups in the UK and abroad. She has been with Clean Break since 2002 as the Head of Education, leading the company's award-winning work with women in the criminal justice system and women at risk of entering it. Anna became Joint Artistic Director of Clean Break on 1 July 2018.

Anna is co-author of *Making a Leap: Theatre of Empowerment: A Practical Handbook for Creative Drama Work with Young People* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers). She has an MA in Arts Education from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and a PG Cert (Distinction) in Race and Ethnic relations. She is a regular visiting lecturer on Applied Theatre courses at Universities across the Country and between 2006 and 2018 was a trustee of Leap Confronting Conflict; a UK based national charity specialising in youth and conflict. Anna sits on the Steering Group of the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance and is also a trained coach and regularly mentors artists in participatory settings.

**Miriam Nabarro** is a visual artist and scenographer with 25 years' experience working in socially engaged and participatory settings, both locally and internationally. She was lead artist for *Processions* with Clean Break (2018/ 1418 Now!), and enjoys being Creative Associate for 20 Stories High in Liverpool, Artist in Residence at SOAS, and a core team member with Art Refuge UK, regularly working in Northern France with people in transit. In 2017-8 she created a pop up archive installation for the Award winning *The Welcoming*

Party (Theatrerites/ MIF/ RURH) and divides her time between theatre making, public and participatory art practice. [www.miriamnabarro.co.uk](http://www.miriamnabarro.co.uk)

#### CAST:

**Funke Adeleke** (Nina) has been a Clean Break Member since 2015. She has been working as an actress on stage and TV for 9 years and she trained at the Royal Central school of Speech and Drama in 2017. Since leaving drama school, Funke has gone on to feature in commercials: Just Eat 2019, FCA PPI 2018, HSBC 2018, LIDL 2017, EE 2017 and on stage in *On Missing Cockpit* Theatre 2018, *Typical Girls* workshop (Clean Break and RSC) 2018.

**Jade Small** (Rachel) has been a Clean Break Member since 2013. After completing her studies with the company, she won a bursary to The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and was awarded a Diploma in Acting. Her credits with the company include *Friendtimacy* by Stacey Gregg, the curtain-raiser for Phyllida Lloyd's critically acclaimed *Henry IV* at The Donmar Warehouse in 2014; the original production of Chloë Moss's *Sweatbox*, at the National Theatre and Latitude Festival 2015; and *Inside Bitch* at the Royal Court Theatre, the launch production of the company's 40th Anniversary in 2019.

**Posy Sterling** (Steph) has been a Clean Break Member since 2015 and is a recent graduate from Italia Conti Acting. Her credits whilst training include *Saved*, *The Art of Success* and *the Good Person of Sichuan*. Most recently, she performed in Clean Break's *Belong* at the Arcola Theatre and Lyric Hammersmith. Posy is also an accomplished singer and her track *Warning* features on the Amy Winehouse Foundation's album *Amy's Yard The Sessions: Volume 1*.

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#### PRESS CONTACTS

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