

CLEAN BREAK CAMDEN EVENTS: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

Kentish Town-based theatre company **Clean Break** opens its doors to its local Camden community for two special events in September and October. The organisation welcomes visitors for **Open House London** for the second year running (free, 21 September) and is excited to stage a student production around the building as part of **Fun Palaces** (free, 5 October).

Clean Break is an acclaimed theatre company that works with women affected by the criminal justice system, at its Kentish Town studios and in prisons. The organisation receives funding from the London Borough of Camden.

- **OPEN HOUSE LONDON** celebrates all that is best about the capital's buildings, places and neighbourhoods. It gives a unique opportunity to get out and under the skin of London's amazing architecture, with over 700 buildings of all kinds opening their doors to everyone for free. Clean Break will be opening its purpose-built studios to the public. The day will include design and architecture informed tours (available on the hour every hour, no need to book), a chance to learn more about Clean Break's work and to meet Executive Director Lucy Perman MBE and other members of staff.

Details: Open House London at Clean Break: from 10am to 5pm on Sunday 21 September

For information: www.openhouselondon.org.uk / www.cleanbreak.org.uk

- **Clean Break** will be one of over 100 **FUN PALACES** popping up to celebrate theatre director Joan Littlewood's centenary and her vision shared with architect Cedric Price. Fun Palaces is a campaign for culture that everyone can join – combining arts and sciences, welcoming and free, at the heart of communities. Clean Break's **Fun Palace** features a new play devised by graduates of the Education programme with acclaimed playwright Morgan Lloyd Malcolm and musical director Suzy Davies, which will take over the building in exciting ways.

Details: Fun Palaces at Clean Break: 5 October, performances at 1.30pm, 3pm and 5.30pm.

Booking is essential via billetto.co.uk/events/clean-break-fun-palace

For information: www.funpalaces.co.uk / www.cleanbreak.org.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Acclaimed theatre company **Clean Break** produces plays with women writers and actors at the heart of its work. Founded in 1979 by two women prisoners, the company today has an independent education programme delivering theatre opportunities to women whose lives have been affected by the criminal justice system. The company delivers a year-round programme of theatre productions, new writing projects and drama-based education from its North London studios and in women's prisons.

Architectural background for Open House London

In 1998, Clean Break moved from small rented offices in Camden Town into newly refurbished studios in Kentish Town. The building – previously a Christian Dior tie factory and prior to that one of NW5's many piano factories – was purchased by Clean Break in 1995 and building works commenced in 1997. Avanti Architects, a local practice at the time, with a strong track record in education, health and social projects, were commissioned to design the building which had been derelict for a number of years. The brief was to create a safe, secure and creative environment which would meet the company's aspirations; also to create

a feel which was 'non institutional', light and high quality – a great contrast to the prison environment that many of Clean Break's participants have experienced.