

CLEAN BREAK

Clean Break Theatre Co

Clean Break Theatre Company
37-39 Kings Terrace
London NW1 0JR
Tel: 071 383 3786

Clean Break is an exciting and unique organisation for women prisoners, ex-prisoners and ex-offenders.

The company was founded by two women in Askham Grange prison in 1979. Current activities include: an accredited Education and Training Programme in a range of areas, including drama and creative writing; annual professional productions, which are always based around the issues of women and crime and provide employment and training opportunities for the company's most talented and committed students; and a national outreach programme which includes workshops, discussion and performances for probation services and prisons.

The company also provides a creative writing support and advice service for women prisoners, ex-prisoners and ex-offenders.

Clean Break's latest professional production, *Red*, by Anna Reynolds, revolves around the stories of two women who have both killed their husbands. As an ex-prisoner herself, Anna provides an extraordinary insight into the most extreme moments of the two women's lives, as they are haunted by the ghosts of their past.

Red opens on 5 April at the New End Theatre, Hampstead, previewing from 1-3 April. It then goes on national tour. Further information about the London run from the New End on 071 794 0222. Further information about the national tour or the company's education and outreach work from Clean Break on 071 383 3786.

Alexandra Ford, Company Director.

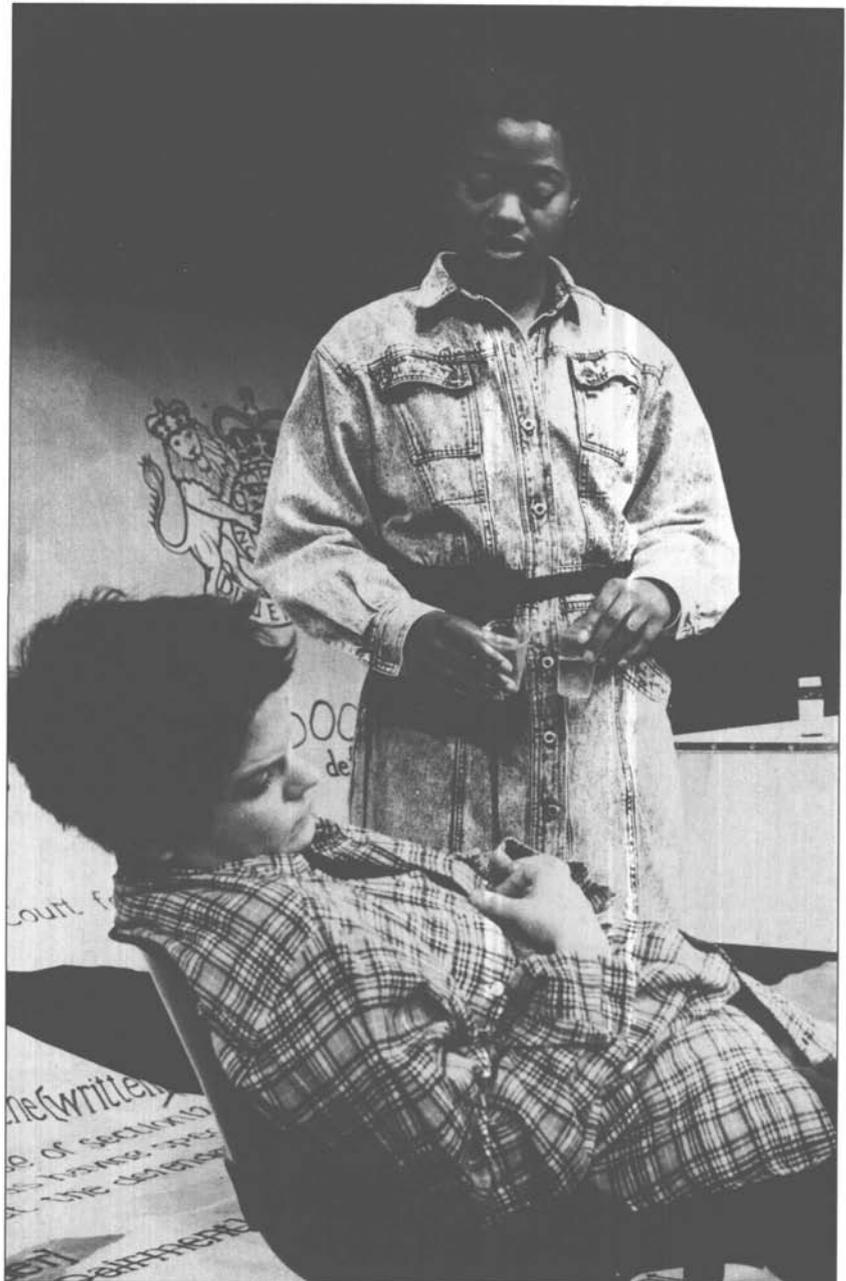
TOUR DATES:

27-28 April: Dixon Studio, Westcliff on Sea 0442 242827

6 May: Winston Theatre Student Union, University of Bristol 0272 303030 ext 7068

9-10 May: Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich 0473 253725

13 May: Old Bull Arts Centre, Barnet



Sarah Ainslie

Yvonne Blackwood and Natasha Alexander (seated) in Head-rot Holiday by Sarah Daniels. Produced by Clean Break Theatre Company 1992/3

081 449 0048

16 May: Victoria park Probation Centre, GMPS

18-19 May: The Pelican, Stroud 0453 758931

24-25 May: HM Prison Askham Grange (workshops only: 0904 70423618 contact Carol Burke)

26-27 May: Studio Theatre, Leeds Metropolitan University 0532 833134

30 May: HM Prison Styal

31 May-1 June: Old Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead 0442 242827

2 June: HM Prison Cookham Wood

3 June: Phoenix Theatre, Leicester 0533 554854

CLEAN BREAK

Extracts from *Red* by Anna Reynolds

Scene 4

(Gerda on stage alone)

GERDA Now that it's too late everybody is suddenly asking why. They don't ask why not? or how or when but always why. I don't see that it matters. The newspapers don't bother about motive. The ending will be same without it anyway.

My barrister has a kindly face. Worry and port stain his cheeks and the back of his neck. My view. I could plead guilty right now and it would all be over.

Scene 5

KAY Be very careful with your words. Use only answers that you have rehearsed with your brief or the other side will trip you uparse over tit. Your

brief knows. Keep your eyes on the back of his neck. He will register all your emotions for you and reflect them onto the jury. Don't watch them. Make friends with the court clerk. Smile at the copper who brings the tea and the gritty sarmies. Smile bravely even though your mind is full of sharp knives. Don't lose faith in yourself or they'll lose faith in you. Nobody likes a loser.



Sarah Ainslie

Publicity shot for *Red* by Anna Reynolds. Produced by Clean Break Theatre Company

Scene 8

KAY So tell me. You are accused of murder. How do you plead?

GERDA Yes.

KAY Yes? Yes you are accused or yes you are guilty?

GERDA I want to explain exactly how things -

KAY I'm asking the questions. All you have to do is answer them as best you can. Let's begin at the beginning. Best place, don't you think? (SMILES KINDLY AT GERDA) Did you do it?

GERDA It's not as simple as that!

KAY Calm down, calm down. Don't get riled so early. It'll get worse.

GERDA Today the jury were shown photographs of the body. They were handed to me but all I could see was the bright colours. White and black and red. I don't know why they showed me.

KAY Did you cry?

GERDA Never.

KAY Mistake. Sob copiously every time they mention the deceased and especially when they point to you. This is life and death, Gerda Morris. Fuck this up now - you don't get another chance.

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