

CLEAN BREAK

FILM FESTIVAL



Programme

23 September to 6 October 2024



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Digital Partner:
**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

About the Festival

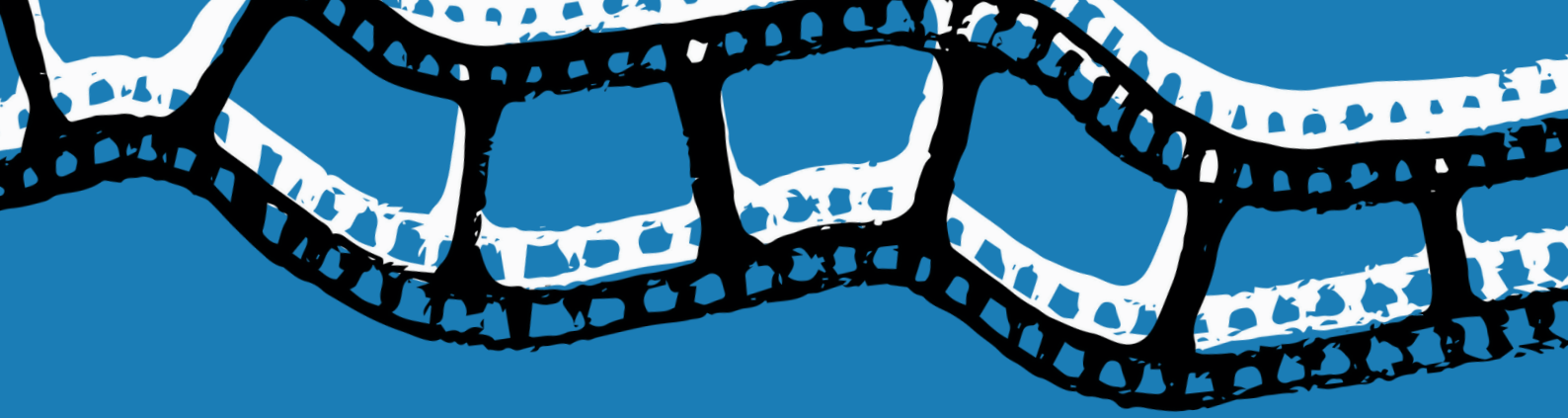
Clean Break's first online [Film Festival](#) celebrates the intersection of film and theatre, and is hosted on our Knowledge Hub, developed with the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Programme.

Clean Break is showcasing short films which raise difficult questions, inspire debate, and help to effect profound and positive change in the lives of people who are criminalised, or who are at risk.

Discover a diverse and gripping programme, from a talented selection of filmmakers. We are proud to showcase authentic stories of struggle, survival and healing from a range of unique perspectives. In our festival you will find short films that navigate stories of...

- Criminalisation and the criminal justice system
- Healing through art and creativity
- Racial and social justice
- Feminism, gender and women's rights
- Homelessness and housing
- Addiction and recovery





Why Film?

Moving image has always played a crucial part in Clean Break's artistic practice. From *Killers* in 1984, to more recently *Sweatbox* and *Hope*, film compliments our on-stage work and allows us to share stories of women and the criminal justice system to audiences beyond the theatre walls.

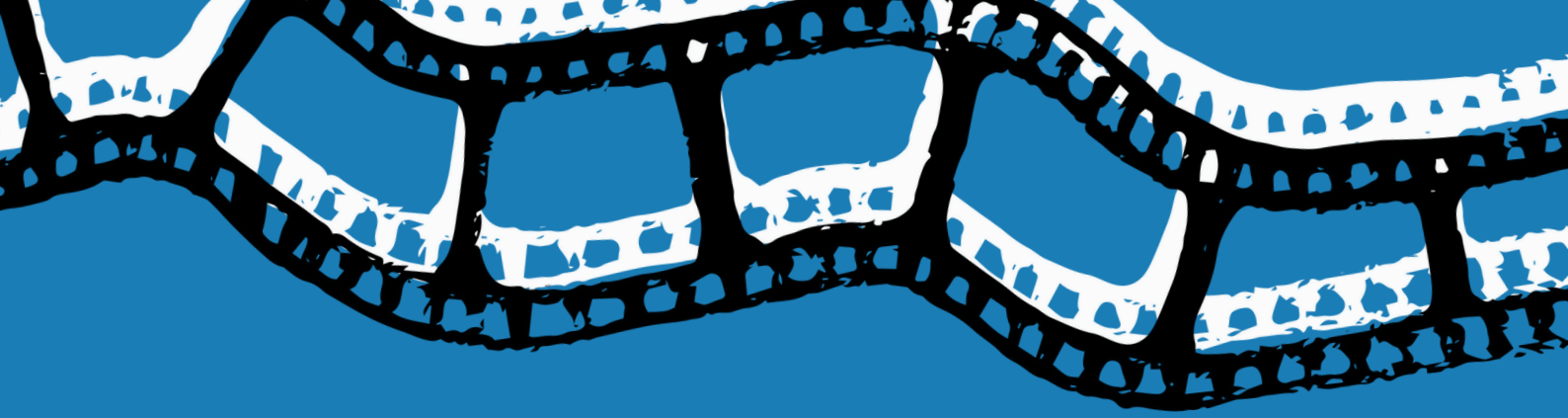
Theatre and film have a rich shared history, having influenced each other since the birth of film in the late 19th century with the early silent films of the Lumière brothers.

In the 20th century, the rise of stage-to-screen adaptations influenced cinema's three-act narrative structure and dramatic character arcs, as well as the stagecraft elements such as set design and lighting.

Today, we see cinema's influence in theatre, with the use of digital projection and sound design being commonplace in on-stage productions.

We are excited to continue this legacy by putting film in the spotlight on Clean Break's Knowledge Hub this autumn.





A message from Anna Herrmann, Artistic Director of Clean Break

I am delighted to be introducing you to Clean Break's first ever online Film Festival programme!

For two weeks from 23 September 2024, we will be hosting a range of beautifully made original films, including both documentaries and works of fiction. We are delighted to be able to showcase our own work, alongside that of independent filmmakers, and other theatre companies – all to bring vital human stories to your attention.

The films in our festival are connected by broad themes of social justice, with many centring stories of lived experience within and beyond our criminal justice system. We chose these films believing that they offer an eclectic range of voices, perspectives and styles, wanting the experience to be broad and dynamic as a collection.

Our brilliant team at Clean Break has initiated this festival to pilot our Knowledge Hub, developed with the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies Digital Accelerator Programme, as a platform which celebrates artists working across film and theatre. We are thrilled that this new digital space has enabled us to provide new experiences to our online audiences, surprising and delighting them with what they can expect from Clean Break.

I am so proud of this programme and all the terrific filmmakers we are championing. We trust that you will find something that moves you, challenges you and inspires you. Enjoy!



Programme

Documentary

After Time

From Kestrel Theatre Company, three men share the damaging effects that criminalisation has had on their lives, and how they have found ways to move forward. *Dir, DOP, editor: Dorothy Allen Pickard. Cast: Marc, Nathaniel and Ricardo.*

Content notices: Criminalisation.

Free film



Buddleia: the Unchained story

Smart Justice: animated video series

Lavette's Choice. Jason's Sentence. Johnny's Home. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) presents the stories of three people whose experiences show the toll that an abusive and unjust criminal system takes on individuals, families, and communities.

From ACLU and Neon Zoo.

Content notices: Criminalisation.

Free Films

Buddleia: the Unchained Story

The tale of Brenda, also known as Lady Unchained, a poet, performer, broadcaster and advocate for life after prison.

Dir: Tracy Kiryango. Producer: Artsadmin.

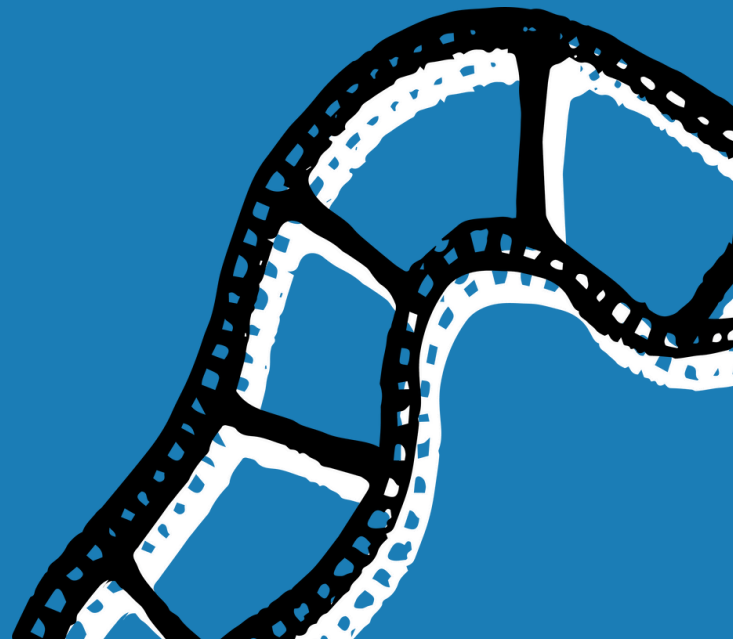
Content notices: Criminalisation, mental ill health, racism.

Festival Pass



Lavette's Choice: Smart Justice series

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Documentary

No Comprendo

A short-authored documentary about language and communication in the criminal justice system in the UK. Focusing on the language used in court and how the quality of communication has affected those convicted, and their understandings.

Dir. Bukola Bakinson. Producer: Claudia Botton.

Content notices: Criminalisation, racism.

Festival Pass



No Comprendo

Violet Gave Willingly

An intimate study of the nature of memory and how it can both harm and protect. In an unflinching conversation between a mother and daughter, the film lays bare the continuum and legacy of gender-based discrimination, sexism, and sexual violence.

Dir, Producer, Edit: Claire Sanford. Starring: Deborah Dumka

Content notices: Gender based violence.

Festival Pass



Violet Gave Willingly

Without Walls

Shot in HMP Holloway after it's closure, *Without Walls* explores Clean Break Members' experience of the prison, the impact it has had on their lives and the tensions caused when social and physical boundaries collide.

Dir: Clare Richards. Producers: Footwork Trust.

Content notices: Criminalisation, mental ill health.

Free Film



Programme

Drama



Adra Ni Y Môr

Dues

From Synergy Theatre Company. Fifteen-year-old Tia has to be strong for her mum, but she's vulnerable to exploitation from criminal networks unless she can find a way out, fast.

Dir: Esther Baker. Writer: Ambreen Razia. Cast: Kemi Adoweru, James Hillier, Khai Shaw, Petra Letang, Morgan Watkins.

Content notices: Gender based violence, exploitation.

Free Film

Hope

A film from Clean Break. An uplifting story of personal growth and community activism, exploring what hope means for women facing adversity.

Dir: Kirsty Housely. Co-created: Nicole Hall, Michelle Hamilton, Carina Murray, Natasha Jean Sparkes, and River.

Content notices: Substance and alcohol use, domestic violence, mental ill health.

Festival Pass

Adra Ni Y Môr (Our Home The Sea)

Lara has built a life for her and her daughter, Magi, with the sea at its heart, lived and explored in their mother tongue. But as external forces push them ever closer to danger, their world begins to crumble around them.

Dir, Producer, Writer: Mared Rees. Cast: Mared Rees, Marged Mair, Sian Reese-Williams

Content notices: Housing, domestic violence.

Festival Pass

Home

How does it feel to be free? Best friends Kay and Jenna are reuniting after being separated by prison. But reigniting what they had before isn't straightforward.

Dir. Writer: Nia Childs. Cast: Shona Babayemi, Natasha Jean Sparkes

Content notices: Criminalisation.

Festival Pass



Hope

Programme

Drama

More Than One Story: film series

Sandwiches. Boiling Frogs. Snakes and Landlords. Three short films from Cardboard Citizens that aim to disrupt stereotypes, generalisations and misconceptions around homelessness in the UK today.

Dir. Chris Sonnex. Writers: Naomi Westerman, Kayleigh Llewellyn, Debbie Hannan. Cast: Oriana White, Natasha Jean Sparkes, Yvonne Wickham.

Content notices: Homelessness, gender based violence, care system, substance use.

Free Films

Wings

A love letter from the late Sonya Hale, written as a signal of hope to her son after she's gone.

Dir: Billy Boyd Cape. Writer: Sonya Hale. Cast: Damari Green, Tracy-Anne Green, Zee Asha, Cory Hippolyte & Frank McPeake.

Content notices: Bereavement.

Festival Pass



Wings



More Than One Story: Boiling Frogs

Sweatbox

A film from Clean Break. Three women sit in a prison van, each caught up in their own worlds as they anticipate what's next. A glimpse into the experience of women as they are pulled away from their lives and transported to prison.

Dir: Anna Herrmann. Writer: Chloë Moss. Cast: Funke Adeleke, Jade Small, Posy Sterling and Sarah-Jane Dent.

Content notices: Criminalisation, pregnancy.

Free Film

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FAQs



How do I access the film festival?

All films will be available to watch online on Clean Break's [Knowledge Hub](#) during the festival.

To watch the full programme of films we have available, you can [purchase a festival pass](#).

To watch our free selection of films, simply [create a free Knowledge Hub account](#), or log in if you already have one.

I'm a Clean Break Member, how do I watch?

Clean Break Members who are currently on the Members Programme have free access to the Film Festival. Simply log in using your email address. Make sure it's the same email that Clean Break uses to contact you. If you don't know your password, click 'Reset password'. If you need more help, please contact participation@cleanbreak.org.uk

How can I submit a film to the festival?

We are not accepting additional submissions to the festival. However, if you have a film which you think would be of interest to Clean Break, please email us general@cleanbreak.org.uk

Can I vote in this festival?

Clean Break's Film Festival is not a competitive festival, so you cannot vote for films. However, we would love to hear your thoughts on the films, and the festival overall. We will be sending a feedback form to all Film Festival Pass holders.

Which Film Festival Pass should I purchase?

All Film Festival Passes offer the same level of access. We set different price points so you can purchase the pass which best suits you. Our 'Standard Festival Pass' is £15.

If you have the means to pay a little bit more and support Clean Break's work, we would be grateful if you choose the 'Solidarity' option.

Our 'Low or no income' pass is for those who are unwaged, or on a low wage.

If you have lived experience of the criminal justice system, you are welcome to choose the 'Lived Experience' pass.

Can I watch from outside the UK?

If you are outside of the UK, you can watch the free films we have on offer in the festival. Unfortunately our Film Festival Pass is not available outside of the UK.

When can I watch the films?

All films will be available to watch at any time from 9am on 23 September to the end of 6 October 2024.

Can I watch the films on TV?

All films are available to watch on our online Knowledge Hub, hosted on Vimeo. You may be able to cast the films onto your TV if your device allows.

I need more help accessing the festival

If you need help accessing the film festival please contact general@cleanbreak.org.uk



Thank You

With heartfelt thanks to all the filmmakers for participating in our inaugural film festival.

Thank you to our digital partners Bloomberg Philanthropies, who supported the development of Clean Break's Knowledge Hub through their Digital Accelerator Programme.

The films in our programme were selected by a panel, with representation from Clean Break's staff team and Members Programme. Thank you to all panel members for their time and careful consideration.

We extend thanks to our Clean Break Member Film Review Committee, for writing honest and heartfelt reviews of a selection of the films in the programme, to be published on our Knowledge Hub during the festival.

Festival artwork designed by Eloise Dorr.



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