

Joann Condon

Little Boxes



Programme

By Joann Condon and Leonie Simmons

Directed by Daniel Brennan

AlphaMum Productions

If you loved Little Boxes, please leave an [audience reacts](#) and don't forget to tell your friends, Little Boxes is on at Gluttony until March 10th

ABOUT THE SHOW:

“I’m having a clear-out, of me. I thought I’d get out all the boxes I get put into and try and understand them, or bin them...”

Joann is on a quest to find her ‘me’ box.

Little Boxes is a one-woman show, taking the audience on a journey through Joann’s life and the ‘boxes’ that have made her who she is today. The hopes and dreams of a child, the frustrations of an acting career, the tensions of being a parent, the grief in losing loved ones, the fear of being... herself.

Described as “funny, touching and at times heartbreaking,” by London Pub Theatres, Joann uses personal anecdotes to highlight assumptions and judgements made about her based on looks, age, gender and background. This phenomenon of classifying people is called ‘social categorization’.

Social categorisation is the process by which people assign categories to themselves and others into differentiated groups¹. The three major classifiers are race, sex and age however, other dimensions include social status, occupation and sexual orientation. Once these categorisations are made, they can affect assumptions and behaviours often subconsciously. This can result in stereotypic associations and harmful biases ranging from the relatively trivial to hostile and dangerous

“Born to Irish parents who had come over in the ‘50s to such welcoming signs as ‘No Blacks’, ‘No Dogs’, ‘No Irish’...”

This topic remains salient when topics such as gender, racial equality, social mobility and body image continue to be hotly discussed and can sadly polarise people particularly on social media.

The concept for Little Boxes was born out a discussion Joann had with her then 5-year old daughter, who expressed the desire to be a boy, not a girl. “I did not want my child to be forced into a box, and then I realised, the only way I could lay a path for her was to confront my own boxes. It’s natural for people in our lives to want to force us into nice little boxes,” says Condon, “but the scary thing is, after a period of time, you end up putting yourself in that same box.”

Little Boxes challenges the audience to think differently about themselves and the people around them. *“It’s one of those plays where you go in without knowing what to expect and come out realising you have just watched something that challenges your own way of thinking and how you look at those around you”*. Broadway Baby

¹ Krueger J (2001) in International Encyclopaedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences

“Little Boxes moved me more than so many shows I’ve seen before, I had to wait a day to find the words for it, from laughing to crying and back again”



If you’re a woman, or will be one, or know one or love one or want to understand one - see this, take a hankie.”

REVIEWS:

“Great theatre makes us think and I am particularly grateful to Little Boxes for such an inspiring piece of theatre. This is not a show to miss.”

★★★★★ [Fairy Powered Productions](#)

“This one woman show is a delight. By turns hilarious, moving, sad and uplifting; it takes the audience on a journey through Joann Condon’s life and memories, dreams and sorrows. The stories are intensely personal, but also universal and immensely relatable” -

★★★★★ [The Spy in the Stalls](#)

“It is a show with such a profound heart that I think all need to see it, whatever your age or life situation, as your life will be so much better having experienced it

★★★★★ [Theatre and Tonic](#)

A warm, relatable, funny and emotional one woman show about finding yourself in a world obsessed with labels

★★★★★ [Everything Theatre](#)

“A naturally warm and engaging performer, Joann, who Little Britain fans may recognise as ‘Fat Pat’ takes us through the highs and lows of her life so far”.

★★★★★ [Theatre Weekly](#)

“It’s one of those plays where you go in without knowing what to expect and come out realising you have just watched something that challenges your own way of thinking and how you look at those around you”.

★★★★★ [Broadway Baby](#)

“The production relies on the good old-fashioned art of storytelling, and Condon’s comic timing is impeccable” -

★★★★★ [London Theatre1](#)

“Funny, touching and at times heartbreaking, Little Boxes ticks all the right boxes”.

★★★★★ [London Pub Theatres](#)

“A joyful delve into one woman’s life, celebrating the successes, the heartbreak, and everything in between”.

[The Plays The Thing](#)

“Condon promises we will laugh and cry... and laugh and cry we did”.

[Phoenix Remix](#)

“The pleasure and resonance of this show come from its honesty”

[Daily Info Oxford](#)

“An excellent evening’s entertainment. What is better than a chance to laugh and cry within the same hour? Well done, Joann for holding a mirror up to the lives of the older ‘everywoman’.” [Manchester Theatre Academy](#)

“This may just be one of the most inspirational plays I have seen. Sure it’s small, but the message is huge. The ending is positive and hopeful, and there’s plenty of food for thought throughout.” [MANC Muse](#)

“Little Boxes does not avoid sentiment but is too truthful to become cloying. Little Boxes is a gentle but very funny look at the acting profession, and life in general, staged in a warm, intimate manner.” [British Theatre Guide](#)

“Frequently funny, and as often touching and poignant, Little Boxes is an exploration of one woman’s life that will ring true for some but be food for thought for all” [I Love Manchester](#)

“So many wise observations, lots of good humour, a wealth of attitudes for us to identify with, and a fine stage persona.” [Buxton Fringe](#)

[AWARDS:](#)



[Shortlisted for Best Theatre Production
and Best Actor Female
Buxton Fringe 2022](#)



[OFFComm Short Run Commendation
VAULT Festival 2020](#)

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM:



Joann Condon is a British actor. She started her career in theatre and went on to have roles in fantastic UK comedies and sitcoms such as ‘Little Britain’, where she was a regular as Fat Fighters attendee ‘Pat’. She also performed in ‘Mrs Sidhu Investigates’, ‘The Last Letter from Your Lover’, ‘Dad’s Army: The Lost Episodes’, ‘Edge of Heaven’, ‘The Office’, ‘Cradle to Grave’ and ‘Harry Hill’s Shark Infested Custard’. Little Boxes is the first time she has written and starred in her own production.

See Joann Condon’s show reel [here: http://thebwhagency.co.uk/joann-condon](http://thebwhagency.co.uk/joann-condon)



Leonie Simmons originally trained as a medic in Adelaide, is now living in London. She is the co-writer and producer of Little Boxes. She has a writing credit for BBC Radio, was awarded a place in Lit-Laugh microscript competition (2023) and GOLD TV Christmas Cracker Joke competition (2023) She has a Masters in Comedy Writing from Falmouth University, which is in Cornwall.



Daniel Brennan has been a director for over 20 years. Work includes UK tours of ‘Dinner’ by Moira Buffini, ‘Relative Values’ by Noël Coward, and a controversial version of Peter Nichols’ ‘A Day in the Death if Joe Egg’ in Malta. He is the creator of the Off Cut playwriting festival, which originated in London 2009 and now has relaunched in Manchester, and recently worked on ACE-funded ‘Green Door’, a true story of domestic abuse and coercive control.

*Funny, heart-breaking, true,
uplifting and
thought-provoking...
really glad I went”*



*“Loved Little Boxes.
Funny & so moving - an
intimate show about a
woman fitting into and
bursting out of the
boxes we get squeezed
or cornered
or choose to jump into.”*

Audience Feedback for Little Boxes



*“It has certainly changed my
outlook on how I approach life. .
I left the theatre in tears, but not
sad tears, tears of movement at
the concept and idea that life is
for living, not conforming.*

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM:



Alphamum Productions is a female-led production company that **Joann Condon** and **Leonie Simmons** have established in order to support their writing and performing. “The voice of the middle-aged female should be much stronger in entertainment, and we want to be able to share our knowledge and experiences.

Twitter: [@alphamums1](https://twitter.com/alphamums1)
Instagram: [@alphamums1](https://www.instagram.com/alphamums1)
Facebook: [@alphamums.net](https://www.facebook.com/alphamums.net)
Website: <https://alphamums.net>

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Arts Unlimited raises funds to support artists, venues, producers and marginalised communities to participate in Adelaide Fringe. A large portion of the funds are distributed as grants via the Adelaide Fringe Fund, which exists to support bold ideas, elevate diverse voices and encourage innovation.

<https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringe-fund>