

# Joann Condon



# Little Boxes

By Joann Condon and Leonie Simmons  
Directed by Daniel Brennan

AlphaMum Productions

## 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 groups<sup>1</sup>. 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’...”*

After seeing Boy George & Culture Club on Top of the Pops at twelve years old, Joann came to the realisation that it was okay to be different and that maybe she could become an actor. When she broke out of her self-imposed box, she started pursuing a successful acting career, particularly known for BBC’S Little Britain.

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.”

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<sup>1</sup> 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](#)

“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 this honesty”

[Daily Info](#)

**BUXTON FRINGE 2022: Shortlisted for Best Theatre Production and Best Actor Female**

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## 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.



**Leonie Simmons** originally trained in medicine, is a new writer. She recently completed a Masters in Comedy Writing, has a writing credit for BBC Radio 4 Extra and was placed sixth in the GOLD Christmas cracker Jokes in 2023.

Little Boxes also saw her take on the role of producer.



**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.

## 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.

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