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ABOUT THE SHOW
The Tony®, Olivier® and Grammy® award-winning show will begin performances on Wednesday 9 December 2020.
Trey Parker and Matt Stone are the creators of the Emmy and Peabody award-winning television show, South Park, now in its twenty-second season, and the feature films South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut and Team America: World Police.
Robert Lopez co-created the Broadway musical Avenue Q and co-wrote the songs for Disney's Frozen and Coco. He is one of only fifteen artists to win all four major entertainment awards - Emmy®, Grammy®, Oscar® and Tony® Awards.

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LIFE live it well



By SIOBHAN O'CONNOR

A woman who was diagnosed with severe hearing loss in her 30s was told she had the hearing of an 85-year-old and said pride is preventing people from getting help.

For over a decade she struggled in her daily life until she discovered a hearing aid that changed her life for the better.

Naas native Ann Ryan shelled out thousands of euros on hearing aids she found to be underwhelming and so uncomfortable they ended up in a box never used.

When she heard that hearing loss over time can be associated with Alzheimers she decided to act.

Blackberry Hearing then fitted her with a pair in 2015 and Ann found them very comfortable from the beginning.

Ann told the Irish Mirror: "Hearing loss is a quiet disability - pardon the pun.

"It is not spoken about and those who have it generally stay quiet about it. It is associated with old age!

"The reality is that many people suffer needlessly. But life can be normal again."

The former primary school principle admitted that suffering with hearing difficulties affects your day to day life.

She said: "I went to a well known brand to get tested and was given a lump of hard plastic so never wore it.

"This was when I was 41, in due course I couldn't hear what kids were saying in classrooms, I had to get them to stop talking so I could hear one voice.

"So I went to the Mater hospital and was told for someone at 42, I had the hearing of an 85-year-old.

"The doctor advised me he'd highly recommend I learn how to lip-read, it turned out I had a profound hearing loss in one ear.

"I don't hear sounds such as birds singing, or the washing machine ping to say it's when it's finished.

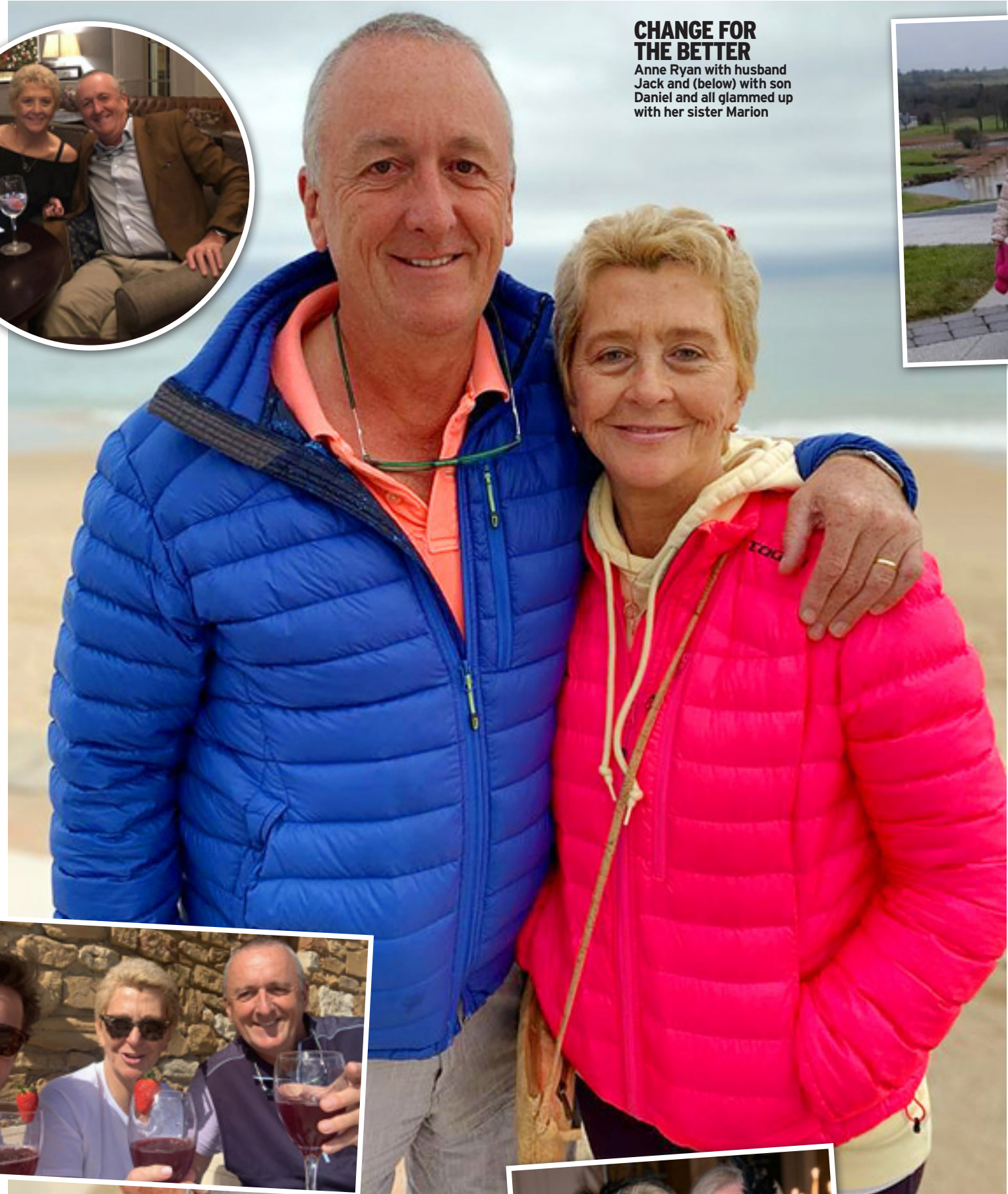
"With my hearing aid in I now do."

As a disability, Ann adds: "It's the silent embarrassing one" that people in their middle years don't talk about.

"People always associate it with old age.

"If you go into a shop and you're deaf and you ask for something they say, 'would you like such and such with that', and you'll say, 'excuse me, can you repeat that', and they'll say it again and you still can't hear them.

"I'm much better now though, I tell the person I'm sorry I have a hearing loss and people are very understanding, but a lot of people are too embarrassed



CHANGE FOR THE BETTER
Anne Ryan with husband Jack and (below) with son Daniel and all glammed up with her sister Marion



GENERATION GAME
Anne's six grandchildren

My new aid allowed me to hear the sound of birds singing

Irish company Blackberry Hearing gave school teacher Anne a life-changing gift

hearing.

"It just happened to co-incide that John Ryan and Dave Gleeson started this Irish company, Blackberry Hearing, as up until then, you had the standard providers who charge exorbitant amounts," she explained.

"I was one of the first guinea pigs. I trialed one of their first hearing aids.

"That was 2015, they were a third of the price, I paid €1400, I put them in and they haven't taken out since, they transformed the quality of my life and my social interaction.

"It meant I didn't have to sit

any longer with my back to the wall so I could hear.

"I didn't have to watch where I'd be sitting because my right side is better than my left.

"About six months ago I upgraded, to the Rolls Royce aid, they're call Evoke. As I'm speaking to you, you're coming straight into my ear as if I have earphones in.

"In the car if I'm on the hands free, the conversation comes into my ear, the sound isn't lost on the car engine.

"It's changed my life, I could go out without my rings, if I stepped out to work or social interact without my hearing aid I'd turn the car around and go back for it.

"That's about as strong a recommendation as I can give, I'm 62, I'm fit and able bodied but I know there are men, women who for pride sake don't want to give in and wear hearing aids, but this is life changing."

●Blackberry Hearing, founded five years ago, is an Irish owned company providing quality hearing solutions at more affordable prices. With the latest technology hearing aids and BSc or MSc qualified Audiologists, Blackberry Hearing now operates over 50 clinics nationwide.

Blackberry Hearing also offers home/domiciliary visits at no charge for customers unable to get to a clinic. www.blackberryhearing

BEAUTY BUZZ

BY KATIE GALLAGHER

It's heaven scent for lockdown...

With more and more time being spent within our own four walls, it's the perfect time to invest in your own comfort.

So why not grab yourself a new scented candle for your home office, or an uplifting new perfume for a mood-boosting daily spritz.

SWEET SUMMER SCENT

There's exciting news for Jo Malone fragrance fans out there as their Blossoms limited-edition collection for spring/summer 2020 has just landed - and it's all kinds of lovely.

It's spring and summertime, captured in scent.

The collection explores a contrast between mouth-watering citrus fruits and serene floating blooms, alive in a secret garden.

Pristine Waterlily captures the beauty of the floral crown jewel of the garden pond.

Meanwhile, invigorating Yuja, ripening in abundance on verdant trees and fizzing with fragrant aroma will take you to a land far away from this crazy time - even if it is just a brief moment.

●Yuja Cologne 30ml RRP €57.00 & Yuja Cologne 100ml, €114.00

●Waterlily Cologne 30ml RRP €57.00 & Waterlily Cologne 100ml, €114.00

SET THE TONE

If there's one positive thing to come out of this new normal, it is learning to take some me-time and enjoy some of the luxuries in life now, while we can.

And the perfect way to do so is to set the scene for a pamper session with an aromatic candle or diffuser.

The new Jo Malone summer collection is decked out with the perfect fragrances for an at-home spa feel.

Joining the colognes are a duo of much-loved Blossoms fragrances, including the Orange Blossom home candle and diffuser.

●Orange Blossom Home Candle, €55.00

●Orange Blossom Diffuser, €82.00

SPRITZ AND FIX

There's something about this season that makes me want to soak my skin in hydrating products all day long.

And the easiest way to quench that thirst is with a refreshing spray.

It's ideal for boosting skin hydration throughout the day and cooling the skin down in this heat.

This week I'm lusting over Caudalie's Beauty Elixir, a powerful plant based 'anti-dull' treatment inspired by Queen Isabelle of Hungary's elixir of youth.

Not only does it aim to give the complexion an instant boost of radiance, but it also promises to tighten pores and smooth away fine lines.

The cult elixir also works to help set make-up. Sold!

●Caudalie's Beauty Elixir - available at Cult Beauty, €39

