

Connie (00:00):

Hi, everyone. Welcome to Armchair Adventures hosted by me, Connie. This month listener, we hit over 10,000 listens. Wow. 10,000. That's amazing. And we have had loads of you sending us drawing for our competition. Keep them coming in. You've got until the 30th of April. Also a big hello to all our new adventures listening in France. How are you? Or should I say "Bonjour, ca va?" It's so cool to have you with us. Let us know where you're listening to this today listener by tweeting all the gang @madebymortals or posting on our Facebook page. Thanks everyone. Love you guys!

MUSIC (00:38):

INTRO SONG PLAYS

Connie (00:45):

In this episode, we have some very special guests. Drum roll, please. It's a community theatre company. Say hello everybody.

John (01:12):

Hello, I'm John

Danny (01:13):

Hello, I'm Danny

Cole (01:21):

Hi, I'm Cole.

Ann (01:22):

Hiya, I'm Ann

Katie (01:22):

Hi, I'm Katie.

Sue (01:24):

Hi, I'm Sue

Nicola (01:24):

Hi, I'm Nicola.

Connie (01:28):

My family run travel agents were supposed to be booking the company on a tour of their latest show listener, but because of coronavirus, it was cancelled. They were supposed to be going on a tour of local schools and assisted living homes and community centres. So guys, what was your latest show all about?

Customer 1 (01:44):

It was about a gang of community vigilantes tackling loneliness in their local area,

Customer 2 (01:49):

Inspiring people to listen to each other.

Customer 3 (01:51):

Inspiring people, to reach out to others that need a little bit of help.

Customer 4 (02:00):

Helping people to feel like they belong

Connie (02:00):

It sounds important work.

Customer 5 (02:02):

It is, loneliness is very bad for your health.

Customer 6 (02:04):

It contributes to heart disease and dementia and lots of other illnesses.

Customer 7 (02:12):

Let alone the impact on your mental health. You know, how you think and feel.

Customer 8 (02:17):

It's not just older people, you know, Connie. It affects young people just like you too.

Connie (02:21):

I'm sorry. You can't go on your tour of your local community guys. I love theatre myself. I'm doing drama and music at school. Well, I was, it's not been the same since coronavirus. I hope an Armchair Adventure can help in some way. What is it about being in a theatre company you like.

Customer 1 (02:41):

Oh, the buzz, the excitement, the nervousness. When the show starts, I just go into my own little world.

Connie (02:53):

You can't beat a live audience, eh Julia.

Julia (02:58):

That's right!

Customer 2 (02:58):

For me, it's all about having a cuppa with your friends and building your confidence up

Customer 3 (03:02):

The energy you get from other people. You can really feel it.

Customer 4 (03:05):

Learning from each other.

Customer 5 (03:07):

Making each other laugh

Customer 1 (03:09):

The show we were supposed to be touring Connie was about a really important matter, but we'd use music, drama, and comedy to get the message across.

Customer 2 (03:19):

I play a giant ear in the show Connie.

Connie (03:23):

Do you, Chris? That's amazing. I guess this podcast is kind of like a performance, a performance where everyone gets to join in including you.

Customer 3 (03:33):

Is it in that case? Just a minute, every one places please

ALL (03:41):

VOCAL WARM UPS.

Connie (03:41):

What are you lot doing?

Customer 1 (03:56):

Warming up.

Connie (03:58):

Oh, I see.

Customer 2 (04:00):

Before any performance, we warm up our bodies and voices and our imaginations

Customer 3 (04:08):

It helps us feel connected and gets the creative juices flowing.

Customer 4 (04:10):

Even on the conference call like this

Customer 2 (04:12):

First we stretch and yawn. One, two, three

ALL (04:19):

YAWNS

Connie (04:24):

Come on. Let's join in. First we stretch and yawn [YAWN].

Customer 4 (04:44):

Then we do a lion face and a mouse face. Mouse face, you squish your face. Very small, like a mouse and lion face. You open your mouth in a roar like a lion.

Connie (04:58):

Got it. Ready? Listener mouse face. Lion face. Mouse face. Lion face. [BLOWS RASPBERRY] How are you making that noise?

Customer 1 (05:17):

By putting my lips together and blowing them out. Listen [RASPBERRY]

Connie (05:22):

What about this? [SMALL PUFF OF AIR]

Customer 1 (05:25):

Almost Connie, try again.

Connie (05:26):

[BLOWS RASPBERRY]

Customer 1 (05:28):

That's it.

Connie (05:29):

Join in listener. [RASPBERRIES] Do it low and high. Now all the way from low to high, like a rocket taking off. Ready? Wow. That makes my nose itch

Customer 2 (05:48):

Mine too, give it a rub.

Connie (05:50):

So listener hi, by the way. Yes. You. Who is listening right now. As you listen to this podcast, I want you to join in with me and my customers. We're going to be engaged in our imaginations. Moving, acting, singing. All from the safety of where we are. We can't see each other. And we might be miles apart, but this is still something we can do together. So guys, now our bodies and voices and imaginations are a bit more warmed up. I've been thinking. As this is an armchair adventure and we can go anywhere, I for one I'm fed up with my local area, fed up with the same old places and the same old faces. Let's think bigger

and better. Why don't we go to the most showbiz place in the world? The West End, Edinburgh festival, Paris, Broadway or Vegas, even.

Mike (06:39):

Well we're more used to dinner halls, common rooms and conference suites to be honest Connie.

Connie (06:45):

Don't worry about that Mike. You'll be fine. I know. What about a place that combines all those showbiz places. A kind of showbiz wonderland. What do you think?

Customer 2 (06:57):

Well...

Customer 3 (06:59):

Yeah why not!

Customer 4 (06:59):

It sounds amazing Connie.

Customer 5 (07:01):

This is gonna be fun

Connie (07:01):

And we can all be the stars of the show. And you listener. I'd love to be famous and be adored by hoards of fans. Wouldn't you?

Customer 6 (07:11):

Well, that's not really what our shows are about Connie, but I've got to say it does sound like an adventure.

Connie (07:16):

Course it doors. Come on you lot.

Customer 7 (07:19):

Okay Connie. Let's do it! Showbiz wonderland, here we come.

MUSIC (07:19):

ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE INTRO MUSIC PLAYS.

MUSIC (07:19):

JAZZ PLAYS.

Customer 1 (07:19):

Wow.

Customer 2 (07:19):

This is amazing!

Customer 3 (08:03):

This street is the most showbiz street imaginable.

Customer 4 (08:07):

I feel like I'm in a movie.

Customer 5 (08:08):

I can see people in fancy clothes.

Customer 6 (08:11):

I can smell expensive perfume.

Customer 7 (08:15):

The lights are so bright

Customer 1 (08:17):

And so beautiful.

Customer 2 (08:17):

Tall buildings.

Customer 3 (08:22):

Huge billboards.

Customer 4 (08:24):

Buskers and hawkers.

Customer 5 (08:24):

Red carpets.

Customer 6 (08:24):

Fountains and statues.

Customer 7 (08:29):

Bubbly cocktails.

Customer 1 (08:29):

Security personnel.

Customer 2 (08:37):

Delicious looking food.

Connie (08:47):

What can you see on the showbiz street listener?

MUSIC (08:49):

QUIET JAZZ IN BACKGROUND

Connie (08:52):

Chris, what are you doing?

Chris (08:57):

I'm signing autographs Connie.

Connie (08:59):

What are you doing Nicola?

Nicola (09:00):

I'm walking like a fashion and model Connie.

Connie (09:03):

What you do in Habib?

Habib (09:05):

I'm having selfies with my fan club

Connie (09:05):

What you're doing on the showbiz street listener. Don't forget. You're famous now.

MUSIC (09:10):

JAZZ GETS LOUDER

Connie (09:17):

Can you hear music?

Mike (09:18):

It feels familiar somehow

Connie (09:22):

Are you okay, Mike?

Mike (09:23):

This street is not like what we're used to Connie.

Customer 1 (09:25):

It's amazing though.

Connie (09:27):

Don't worry, Mike. You're famous now and surrounded by showbiz people. Besides if we don't hurry, we're going to be late.

Customer 1 (09:34):

Late for what?

Connie (09:34):

For the show. You're performing in the biggest theatre in town tonight.

Customer 1 (09:39):

WHAT?

Customer 2 (09:40):

You're joking

Customer 3 (09:41):

I can't remember my lines.

John (09:43):

We need to do more warm ups.

New Speaker (09:45):

I think we've warmed up enough for now John.

John (09:48):

I've not brought my costume.

Connie (09:50):

Don't worry. Everything will be fine. Trust me.

Customer 2 (09:52):

How we gonna get there?

Connie (09:52):

Limousine of course. Jump in everybody. And you listener.

Customer 3 (10:02):

Scoot up!

ALL (10:05):

[EVERYONE CLIMBING INTO THE LIMO]

Connie (10:10):

Everyone in, then off we go

Customer 4 (10:20):

It's like being in a disco on wheels

Customer 5 (10:21):

Feel those seats. What lovely material!

Customer 6 (10:21):

It's very comfy.

Customer 7 (10:32):

It's got a mirrored ceiling.

Customer 1 (10:34):

I can see my bald spot.

Customer 2 (10:34):

I feel very important just like royalty

Connie (10:40):

How do you feel in the limousine listener? Well, let's make the most of this everyone. I'm going to get all the lights flashing. Turn the air con right up, open and close the electric windows. Put the seats in massage mode. Use the mini fridge and coffee machine.

Chris (10:59):

Don't forget the hot tub in the back.

Connie (11:01):

That's right Chris, pull the water jets and bubbles on full blast and turn up music.

MUSIC (11:05):

PLAYS.

ELECTRICS (11:05):

BLOW

Connie (11:26):

Uh oh, I think we have a problem. Just a minute. I'll try the Intercom. What's happened, driver.
[INAUDIBLE VOICE ON PHONE] Oh [VOICE ON PHONE] I see. [VOICE ON PHONE] Sorry. I'm afraid. We've overloaded the battery. The driver's very upset. We're stuck here now. I don't know what we're going to do.

Customer 1 (11:49):

There's that music again

Customer 2 (12:02):

Don't worry Connie, theatre's like life. You always hit obstacles in the road.

Customer 1 (12:08):

It's about pulling together as a team.

Customer 3 (12:11):

And remembering why you're doing it. And who you're doing it for.

Customer 4 (12:15):

That helps you overcome any problems.

Connie (12:17):

But this is a showbiz wonderland. This is not supposed to happen now we're famous.

Customer 5 (12:22):

Don't worry Connie. This has happened to us before.

Customer 6 (12:25):

Our minibus broke down en route to a show once. Do you remember everyone?

Customer 7 (12:31):

Oh yes. We all just got out and gave it a push start.

Customer 4 (12:35):

That's right.

Customer 5 (12:36):

Well, let's do that again then.

Connie (12:38):

I don't think the driver will be happy. He seems very upset.

Customer 6 (12:42):

Don't worry, Connie. I brought a flask full of sweet strong tea and some custard creams with me. Just in case. I always do on a show day. He'll be right.

Customer 6 (12:53):

We're on. He just needed to let off steam. Sometimes all you need to do is listen to people to make them feel better. And of course the tea and bikkies has worked its magic. Let's give this baby a push.

Connie (13:18):

Come on, everyone. You too listener. Let's give this limo a push start. On three, one, two, three, push.

ALL (13:28):

[GRUNTS, CAR ENGINE STARTS]

Connie (13:40):

Get back in everyone. We're off to the biggest theatre in town.

SFX (13:51):

[CAR ZOOMS OFF, MUSIC PLAYING IN BACKGROUND, CHEERING CROWD GETS NEARER]

Customer 1 (14:03):

I never thought. I'd see the day.

Customer 2 (14:04):

Look at the size of your face.

Customer 3 (14:06):

They spelled my name wrong.

Customer 4 (14:11):

No they haven't. The "e" is hidden behind the giant cardboard cutout of you. Look from this angle

Customer 5 (14:17):

It's simply amazing.

Customer 6 (14:18):

What a feeling?

Connie (14:22):

How would you feel listener, seeing your name in big neon lights and your face on a massive billboard. Right, we can't stand here gawking guys. We're on stage in five.

Customer 7 (14:35):

What?!

Connie (14:37):

Five minutes until Showtime people. Walk this way. No time to sign autographs and have selfies. Now stand back, stand back. VIP's coming through.

Customer 1 (14:45):

Thank you kind sir!

Customer 2 (14:45):

I'm not used to getting the door, held open for me.

Customer 3 (14:51):

They were very muscly.

Customer 4 (14:52):

Tell me about it.

Connie (14:55):

No time to flirt now you lot. This way to the stage. [BELL RINGS] Oh, wait a minute. I need to make an announcement. Please take your seats for tonight's performance. The performance is about to begin. Come on you lot. That way's for the audience.

Customer 1 (15:12):

Who are all these people?

Connie (15:16):

That's all the backstage crew. They work here.

Customer 2 (15:18):

All of them??

Connie (15:19):

Right, can we get makeup and costume on the cast? Please? Come on. Chop, chop. We've got a show to do.

Customer 3 (15:25):

Why I've not been made up like this since I played Hamlet in my school play.

Customer 1 (15:33):

Was that in Shakespeare's time?

Customer 2 (15:34):

I'm not that old Chris, right?

Connie (15:37):

That will have to do people. The band is ready now. The stage manager is having kittens because we're behind schedule. You all look fabulous. I've just asked for a general wash for the lights. As there was no time for a full lighting design, just make sure you can feel the light hitting your face.

Customer 3 (15:52):

It won't be my eyes will it? I hate bright lights.

Connie (15:56):

You're going to have to suffer for your art. I'm afraid. Positions people.

Customer 4 (15:57):

Eh, what??

Connie (15:57):

Go and stand in place on the stage.

Customer 5 (16:02):

Oh right, position yeh!

Connie (16:02):

And you listener, get yourself ready to perform in front of thousands of people. Guys, this is it. This is where we belong.

SONG (16:33):

If you want to find a place, a space where you can be yourself. Where friendly faces glow, and you know you just belong. It's where you know, someone's got your back. To listen and help when you need. Take my advice. Step into the light. And suddenly then you may feel. You can be who you wanna be. It doesn't matter where you find it. As long as you're happy. It could be drawing, drama, music or sport. A place where you do what you love. Everyone is different. It matters what is right for you. Performance is our thing, yeh, we like to sing and we love every moment too. Look at us now, surrounded by bright lights. Loving our lives, people shouting our names. Do what we want, get whatever we need. And we have an everlasting coca-cola fountain. This is my home. This is where I belong. This is my home. It's in my DNA. To show the world's a stage. This is my home. This is our place. A space where we can be ourselves. Now with costumes, agents, an amazing pen signing autographs everywhere. We always work hard. Rehearse whenever we need to. And now we can be seen on every magazine, this showbiz reality. Look at us now, surrounded by bright lights. Loving our lives, people shouting our names. Do what we want, get whatever we need. And we have an everlasting, coca-cola fountain. This my home. This is where I belong. This is my home. It's in my DNA. To show the world's a stage. This is my home. Singing. Dancing. This is my home.

AUDIENCE (17:03):

[APPLAUSE]

Connie (20:27):

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Customer 1 (20:27):

Look at all their faces.

Customer 2 (20:27):

Some people are standing up.

Customer 3 (20:27):

Some people are taking selfies.

Customer 4 (20:27):

There's a few people leaving already.

Connie (20:27):

Oh, don't worry about them. I expect they'll be reviewers and agents and industry types rushing off to make it in time for the next big thing.

Customer 5 (20:39):

I've never heard a round of applause like it

Customer 6 (20:39):

The audience's hands must be stinging, like mad.

Customer 7 (20:48):

They'll damage their voices, shouting and screaming if they're not careful.

Customer 1 (20:52):

Some people are throwing flowers.

Customer 2 (20:52):

Oh they're beautiful!

Customer 3 (20:57):

We need to do a curtain call Connie. We need to take a bow.

Connie (21:03):

Oh yes, of course. Remind me, how do we do that?

Customer 3 (21:07):

You look down at your shoe laces for a counter three and then spring up and look at the audience. Then repeat.

Customer 4 (21:16):
Don't forget to smile.

Customer 5 (21:21):
And be flamboyant.

Connie (21:21):
Sorry what?

Customer 5 (21:21):
Show off a bit

Connie (21:23):
Right, of course. Sorry. I knew that obviously. Let's do this together listener. After three, we're going to do three flamboyant bows in front of this amazing audience. Ready? One, two, three, go. [APPLAUSE]
Have a safe journey home everyone.

Customer 1 (21:55):
I felt a bit overwhelmed to be honest.

Customer 2 (21:58):
I really enjoyed it, but I didn't get my usual post show glow. If you know what I mean. Don't get me wrong. I'm buzzing, but it feels different than usual.

Connie (22:11):
What are you talking about, that was amazing. Well done everyone. Right tomorrow night, we'll need to ramp it up a bit. I've got an idea for an amazing solo freestyle dance piece for me. I'm also going to have a word with the producers. I think our dressing rooms should be filled with treats and whatnot. I think we can get some bowls full of Smarties only the blue ones mind as I only like the blue ones- and a PA, personal assistant. One for everyone, we all need an assistant. We deserve it now we're stars. What do you lot think?

Customer 3 (22:41):
Well, Connie I'm not sure we need-

Connie (22:42):
Of course we do darlings.

Customer 3 (22:44):
Darlings?

Connie (22:44):
Yeah. Everyone calls everyone darling in the theatre. It's tradition.

Customer 3 (22:49):

I see.

Connie (22:50):

And tonight darlings we'll have to go to a showbiz party, stuffed full of celebs and rich people. And tomorrow we'll have press interviews and TV appearances to do before the show. Our lives are about to completely change. This is the most amazing place in the world.

MUSIC (23:08):

JAZZ PLAYS

Customer 4 (23:17):

But there's no place like home. Connie.

Customer 5 (23:19):

Oh absolutely.

ALL (23:19):

In agreement

Customer 6 (23:19):

At home, we might get a bus to the show, rather than a limousine.

Customer 7 (23:31):

But our shows really help people.

Customer 1 (23:34):

We might get changed into our costumes in the toilets.

Customer 2 (23:37):

And eat sarnies off paper plates.

Customer 3 (23:37):

Washed down with tea, not champagne cocktails.

Customer 4 (23:44):

But at home, our shows really matter to people's lives.

Connie (23:48):

But thousands of people were screaming on names tonight.

Customer 1 (23:51):

Tomorrow we'll be old news.

Connie (23:52):

We won't

Customer 2 (23:53):

Well, maybe not tomorrow, but eventually.

Customer 3 (23:57):

Our latest show was going to help people feel less lonely Connie.

Customer 4 (24:00):

Help people feel more connected.

Customer 5 (24:03):

We teamed up with a local charity and our local NHS team.

Customer 6 (24:07):

Even the council was getting involved.

Customer 7 (24:10):

Everyone working together, using theatre to change lives.

Customer 1 (24:15):

Here in this showbiz wonderland, we're just another distraction. The adulation, the crowds, the height, the bright lights are amazing. But it's not what we're all about.

Connie (24:28):

But here, we're famous. Why wouldn't you want to stay here forever?

Customer 2 (24:32):

It's been nice to be famous for a while Connie, but fame is not the reason we do what we do.

Customer 3 (24:38):

And what about everybody you've helped since the pandemic started Connie?

Connie (24:39):

What do you mean?

Customer 4 (24:44):

Wouldn't you miss them? Your wonderful customers.

Connie (24:50):

You're right. I couldn't let them down. My customers have got me through the last few months. Them and you listener. Gosh, I think I know what that music is now. It's our real home. It's the community and people we love calling to us, reminding us what matters most.

Connie (25:12):

This is my home. This is my home. This is my home. Thank you guys. It's been an incredible Armchair Adventure and it's taught me so much. I've realized that being famous is not, what's really important. I've also learnt how much my community means to me and how important helping other people is to my life.

Customer 1 (26:18):

It's lovely to hear you say that, Connie. I think we're all learned something.

Customer 2 (26:23):

Showbiz wonderland was megafun, wasn't it everyone?

Customer 3 (26:24):

Amazing.

Customer 4 (26:24):

That's right, Chris.

Customer 5 (26:31):

Too right.

Customer 6 (26:31):

Absolutely.

Customer 7 (26:31):

Loved it.

Danny (26:31):

We just can't wait to do a real live show again, once this pandemic is over. And we'd still love you to book our tours for us, perhaps a little more local next time,.

Connie (26:41):

I think you're right Danny.

John (26:42):

Perhaps you could come and join us Connie. Be in the show.

Connie (26:47):

Could I? That would be amazing, John. Thank you.

John (26:52):

And thank you for taking us on an Armchair Adventure. It's been such a wonderful experience and one we'll never forget.

Connie (27:02):

You're welcome. Next time listener. Another one of my lovely customers gets to take us on another Armchair Adventure inspired by their passions and interests, but for now it's time to say goodbye. Goodbye.

ALL (27:16):

CHORUS OF GOODBYES

Connie (27:22):

End call now. Lovely. That was amazing. Thanks so much for joining in. Before you go listener, don't forget to hit that subscribe button to get the latest episode in your feed. As soon as it's released. If you're listening on Apple podcasts, leave us a five-star rating. It's dead easy. And instead of leaving a review, we want you to suggest why we should go on an Armchair Adventure next time. And we'll read out all our favorites on future episodes. See you next time for another armchair adventure. Love you guys.

Speaker 1 (28:00):

Armchair Adventures is a Made By Mortals production. This episode is a collaboration with the Johnny Barlow theatre company and supported by Arts council of England, the national lottery, United We Stream and Action Together.

SONG (28:17):

OUTRO