



## NEW RELEASE

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### [boxhead]

a play by Darren O'Donnell

**Thinking outside the box: [boxhead] proves it's hip to be square**

*Dr. Actions: What do you think it all means?*

*Dr. Thinking: I think it means that our collaboration is destined for great heights and the basking glory of interplanetary fame and fortune.*

*Dr. Actions: But you said your dream was terrifying.*

*Dr. Thinking: Well, I've always been afraid of success.*

*Dr. Actions: Well, get over it, Blockbrain. Now that we've invented the echoless yell, nothing is going to get in our way. Lay it on me.*

Dr. Thoughtless Actions, a young geneticist, awakes one morning to find a cardboard box secured to his head. Unable to wrench it off, he attempts suicide, not only failing but also, unbeknownst to him, cloning himself, creating Dr. Wishful Thinking. The two losers fall madly in love, fall in science and fail to make a baby.

The cast consists of the two boxheads, who also play two disembodied narrators. The conversation between the four voices, an intricately woven semantic circus, traverses boxedness, love and the more ridiculous areas of metaphysical speculation. Through a series of rapid exchanges, verbal games and musical numbers, they discover that all their thoughts come from God, all their words come from the devil, and their desire for love is a habit acquired from the cinema. Sound familiar? Don't be so hard on yourself.

[boxhead] is a dazzlingly smart, frenetic, imaginative and tremendously fun play. First staged in Toronto in 2001, it was an instant hit. In October 2008 [boxhead] is being remounted by Crow's Theatre at Buddies in Bad Times.

This fall, Coach House Books publishes the long-overdue book of Darren O'Donnell's groundbreaking play [boxhead]. The book includes the full text of the play, musical score and an introduction by the playwright.



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#### FALL EVENTS

##### October 9

Toronto  
Stones Place  
(1255 Queen Street West)

##### October 18 – November 2

Toronto  
Buddies in Bad Times  
(12 Alexander Street)



Praise for Darren O'Donnell:

'[*boxhead*] is an audacious, thought-provoking and frequently hilarious attack on both reality in life and realism in theatre ... O'Donnell's script is a tightly wound complex of existential postulations, metaphysical ruminations and poop jokes.' – *Eye Weekly*

'O'Donnell writes like a sugar-addled genius at 300k/h.' – *The Globe and Mail* on *Social Acupuncture*

'You've probably never seen anything like [*boxhead*] – unless you've done a lot of acid ... For the theatrically adventurous, it's one hell of a trip.' – *Georgia Straight*



DARREN O'DONNELL is a novelist, essayist, playwright, director, designer, performer and the artistic director of Mammalian Diving Reflex. His most recent books include a novel, *Your Secrets Sleep With Me*, and *Social Acupuncture: A Guide to Suicide, Performance and Utopia*. Previously published drama includes *Inoculations* (which contains *White Mice, Over, Who Shot Jacques Lacan?*, *Radio Rooster Says That's Bad*) and *pppeeeaaacccccc*. Through Mammalian Diving Reflex, he stages interventionist performance art, including *Haircuts by Children*, *Slow Dance with Teacher*, *Ballroom Dancing* and the *Children's Choice Awards*.

[*boxhead*]

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Drama

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