



**PROFILE**  
**JEAN CONDRON**

**COMPANY**  
**HATS BY JEAN**

**TITLE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
& FOUNDER**



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Jean Condrón is a very resourceful woman who has reinvented herself in each decade since she was twenty. In her twenties she worked in the Irish Times and started her family of four children. In her thirties she focused on producing designer knitwear while rearing her family. In her forties, with a little more time on her hands, she returned to college to study beauty therapy. Now in her early fifties she has discovered her true vocation - 'hats'.

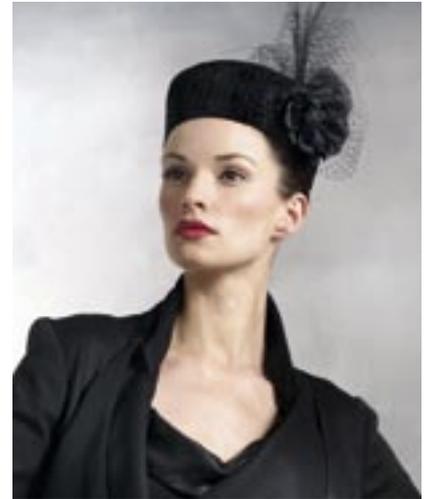
As Scott, her youngest son, says "Mom what will you be doing when you are sixty and seventy?" "I don't know", she laughs, "but I hope that I'll be still doing what I love."

Her current business - Hats by Jean - happened almost by accident. Always creative, Jean had made a hat for her daughter Lana who was going to a friend's wedding. This was greatly admired and many who had seen it enquired if Jean would do something for them for a special occasion. Soon the requests for hats began to grow.

Jean perceived that there might be a business opportunity here and was encouraged by a good friend, who was herself an accomplished businesswoman, to exhibit in the Irish Bride of the Year Show held early in the New Year. Jean had just weeks to make 50 hats, to get her branding right and to have promotional material for the stand prepared. Never daunted, Jean rose to the challenge.

Her husband Neil, who is a graphic designer, went to work creating the brand that would become Hats by Jean ([www.hatsbyjean.com](http://www.hatsbyjean.com)). The show was a great success. The business has grown from strength to strength over the last eighteen months. "I can't believe how quickly the time has passed since that first hat. It's still a blur but I'm glad I decided to take the plunge."

As models and TV personalities began to seek out the original pieces that Jean was creating, the TV3 magazine and fashion programme Xpose featured Hats by Jean during a six minute piece. Within a week of that show there were over 1,500 hits on Jean's website and the orders started to flow in.



Jean has made hats for footballers wives, for models, for royalty and for TV personalities, to be worn at race meetings and at weddings. "My proudest recent moment was when Sandra Huberman, mother of the stunning Amy, asked me to make her a hat for the big occasion. She was an absolute pleasure to work with and I was glad to play a small part in the Irish wedding of the year."

"My pleasure is to make women look really glamorous for that special occasion. I now dye all my fabric to get a perfect match with the outfit the woman intends to wear on the day". Jean is very conscious to hold her prices for her bespoke, unique pieces at an affordable price. "My hats are for every woman, not just models and celebrities."

A recent winner of the Wicklow County Enterprise Board Start Your Own Business Award, Jean is currently benefiting from having a mentor assigned to her, who is assisting her to grow the business.

"Starting my own business is something I always wanted to do since my early twenties. With the children reared I now feel that I have the freedom to follow my dream. "

Jean firmly believes that women come into their own later in life. "I have confidence now that I would not have had at twenty one. I also want to show the children that you're never too old to just get up and do it!"

➤ **STARTING & PARTNERING**

➤ **INVESTING & ACQUIRING**

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