

odyssey



Written by **Joshua Harmon**

Directed by **Dana Resnick**

STARRING

**Jeanette Deutsch, Lila Hood, Noah James, Austin Rogers**

SCENIC DESIGNER

**David Offner**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**Vicki Conrad**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Tom Ash**

PROP DESIGNER

**Josh La Cour**

SOUND DESIGNER

**Marisa Whitmore**

PRODUCED BY

**Ron Sossi**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Gregory Velasco Kucukarslan**

STAGE MANAGER

**Emma Whitley**

*Bad Jews* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc  
World Premiere Produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director, Harold Wolpert, Managing Director, Julia C. Levy, Executive Director) as part of Roundabout Underground  
at the Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre on October 30, 2012

***Bad Jews* runs from April 21 through June 17, 2018**



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The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.



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## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Jonah Haber.....Austin Rogers  
Daphna Feygenbaum .....Jeanette Deutsch  
Liam Haber .....Noah James  
Melody.....Lila Hood

## SETTING

All the action takes place in a studio apartment in the Upper West Side of Manhattan on the eve of Poppy's funeral.

Present day

Play running time is approximately ninety-minutes with NO intermission.

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Ten years ago, Joshua Harmon and I attended Rosh Hashanah services together in Pittsburgh while we were grad students at Carnegie Mellon University. Since then, and not surprisingly, Josh's writing career has flourished, and I have had the joy and privilege to direct his stories. *Bad Jews* is a play near and dear to my heart for so many reasons. The first, of course, is my dear friendship with Josh. The 2nd: "Poppy"—I lost my Chai-wearing grandfather, Poppop, just a couple of years ago. In his elder years, he became the lighting and sound technician at the theatre in his retirement community, creating a deeper bond between us. At 92 years old, he sat in the front row of my production of *Bad Jews* at Pure Theatre in Charleston, SC. That was the last play he ever saw. 3rd: I grew up in a conservative household, we kept kosher, I went to Hebrew school, and I was Bat Mitzvah'ed. In the summers I attended a Jewish summer camp in the mountains of North Carolina, where we contemplated the Jewish diaspora, our identities as American Jews vs. Jewish Americans, remembered the Holocaust, and ultimately traveled to Israel. Daphna preaches in a way that reminds me of that aspect of my upbringing. Josh has written her so specifically that she reminds us of someone we know and can't help but love/pity/resent/respect. 4th: In June of 2015, I sat around the table with my cast of *Bad Jews* in Charleston, SC, finishing up our first rehearsal, as we heard the scream of sirens passing by outside. When I returned home, my Poppop was watching the news and I learned that nine souls were murdered at the Emmanuel A.M.E. Church. Moving forward with this play, and its title, was a choice. The community was afraid, our world was in pain. But this play is a tool that can counteract that pain. Two years later, the situation has not improved, but people are working harder than ever towards making a change. Two years ago the play was about tolerance—now it is about acceptance, (I may have stolen that from the reboot of *Queer Eye*). There is enough room in this world for all of us to assert and express our individuality, but only if we choose righteousness, not self-righteousness. If we choose to build others up, instead of tearing them down, we will all be the better for it. Now can someone please tell that to Daphna and Liam!

## **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT, JOSHUA HARMON**

Joshua Harmon's plays include *Bad Jews* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *Significant Other* (Roundabout Theatre Company; Broadway/Booth Theatre), *Admissions* (Lincoln Center Theater); *Ivanka* (staged readings across the country on Election Eve, 2016) and *Skintight* (upcoming Roundabout Theatre Company). *Bad Jews* is one of the most produced plays in the United States of the last few years and has received international productions in Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, South Africa and London's West End, following sold-out runs at Theatre Royal Bath and the St. James. Fellowships include the MacDowell Colony, Atlantic Center for the Arts and National New Play Network. Joshua is an associate artist at Roundabout Theatre Company and under commission from Manhattan Theatre Club. Education: Juilliard.

## **WHO'S WHO**



### **JEANETTE DEUTSCH**

Daphna Feygenbaum

Jeanette Deutsch is a proud SF Bay Area native, living in LA because of her love for sunshine and traffic. She holds a BA in theatre arts from California State University, Long Beach, with a minor in music. Jeanette is passionate about art in the developing world, having spent time in both Tanzania and Bolivia teaching and creating community-based theatre with children in underserved areas. Her most recent roles include Daphna in *Bad Jews*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged* and Rona in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She is excited to join this wonderful cast and crew for her first show at the Odyssey.



### **LILA HOOD**

Melody

Lila is a Marin County, California native and recent graduate from The University of Michigan's BFA acting program. At Michigan some of her favorite roles were Betsy/Lindsey in *Clybourne Park* and Joan in *Melancholy Play*. Since graduating she has performed in Lars Noren's *WAR* at the ItSelf Festival in Warsaw, Poland and in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* at The Actors Co-Op Theatre Company here in Los Angeles. She is thrilled to be working on this brilliant play by Joshua Harmon and to be doing her first show at The Odyssey!



### **NOAH JAMES**

Liam Haber

Noah is an LA based actor from Tempe, Arizona. He graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts as a member of the Meisner Studio, The Experimental Theatre Wing and Stonestreet Studios, and abroad at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. His LA theater credits include The Odyssey Theatre's *Broadway Bound* directed by Jason Alexander, The New American Theatre's *63 Trillion*, *Boys' Life*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and LA New Court Theatre's *50 Shades of Shakespeare*. TV/FILM credits include: *Game Shakers*, *La La Land*, *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*, *90210*, *Soul Song*, *My Best Friend Ben*, and *Dog it Down*. Represented by Media Artists Group, Bensky Entertainment and BBR Talent Agency.



### **AUSTIN ROGERS**

Jonah Haber

Born in New Port Richey, Florida, Austin showed an interest in the arts at an early age. When he was eight years old, his grandmother brought him to Los Angeles, where he soon began working in commercials, film and television. This is Austin's second production at the Odyssey since performing as Benjamin in *White Marriage* in 2014. He would like to thank the wonderfully talented cast and crew of *Bad Jews*, and his lovely grandmother Mimi, for all of their support.

## **DANA RESNICK**

Director

Dana has been directing for over fifteen years in Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, Washington D.C., Charleston, Milwaukee and Pittsburgh. She is currently a clinical assistant professor of directing at Loyola Marymount University. Dana is the recipient of the Stephen Bochco Award in Directing and the John Jutkowitz Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Performing Arts. Favorite past productions include *Bad Jews* (Pure Theatre), *In the Heart of America* (Prop Thtr), *The Mill on the Floss* (Carnegie Mellon) and *The Island* (won best in Theatre at Piccolo Spoleto 2009). Most recently, she directed Beth Henley's newest play, *Laugh*, at LMU. Dana was the head of the Theatre Department at Star Education, a non-profit based in Los Angeles, that provides enrichment for public elementary school students throughout California. She is on the executive board of the Directing Focus Group for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. She holds an MFA in directing from Carnegie Mellon University and a BA in theatre from Washington University in St. Louis. Dana lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

## **DAVID OFFNER**

### **Scenic Designer**

David received his MFA from CalArts, and a BFA from the University of Florida. Some of his credits include Beth Henley's *Laugh* at IMU (Dir. Dana Resnick), *Tartuffe* at IMU (Dir. Katharine Noon), *The Ghost Road's Asterion* (Dir. Katharine Noon), Ken Roht's *Same-O, A 99cent Show* (Dir. Ken Roht), *Four Chords and A Gun* (Dir. Jessica Hanna) at Bootleg Theater, NOHOMO at the Atwater Village Theater (Dir. Jessica Hanna), *Frankie & Johnnie in the Clair de Lune* at the Hudson Theater (Dir. Silas Wier Mitchell), *Inland Empress* (Dir. Jessica Hanna) at The Lounge Theate. David also designs for film and video, and is the scenic designer for Fringe Central & Fringe Awards show at the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

## **VICKI CONRAD**

### **Costume Designer**

Vicki received the 2015 Ovation Award for Best Costume Design for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, 2017 Ovation Award for Best Play for *33 Variations*, 2014 Ovation Award for Best Musical for *110 In the Shade*, LA Weekly Award for *The Learned Ladies* and Costume Design Ovation nominations for *The Learned Ladies*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Big River* and *33 Variations*. Other favorites: *For the Love Of* (Theatre of Note), *Other Desert Cities* (Theatricum Botanicum), *Asterion* (Ghost Road) and *803* (Scherzo). Her custom design work was in Season 15's *Project Runway* commercial. [vickiconraddesign.com](http://vickiconraddesign.com)

## **TOM ASH**

### **Lighting Designer**

Tom is a lighting designer from San Ramon, CA. He works as a lighting designer, a master electrician, and a technical director around LA at such places as IMU, Marymount High School, UCLA and now at the Odyssey. He's currently working on productions of *Laugh*, *Curtains*, and *Bad Jews*, and is happy to be working with Dana again.

## **MARISA WHITMORE**

### **Sound Designer**

Marisa is a junior theatre arts major at Loyola Marymount University. She has been studying sound and lighting design and technology and has designed sound for numerous shows at IMU, including Tennessee William's *The Rose Tattoo*, Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*, and Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*. This is her first show at the Odyssey and she is very excited to be working with everyone here.

## **JOSH LA COUR**

### **Prop Designer/Scenic Charge**

Josh is the Odyssey Theatre's production manager, he's very happy to have been able to get back into scenic artistry with this show and hopes you enjoy the paint work. Recent Odyssey work includes stage managing *The Dance of Death*, property design for *Freud's Last Session* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and costume construction for *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. He recently finished an outside costume design project at Loyola Marymount University, and will be returning to design Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* this fall.

## **RON SOSSI**

### **Producer/Artistic Director/Founder of the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble**

Ron received the LA Weekly Career Achievement Award in 2013. He has also received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Margaret Harford Award for "demonstrating a continual willingness to experiment provocatively in the process of theatre" and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Ron Link Award for "consistent quality of direction." Recent OTE directing projects include *The Dance of Death*, *Beckett's*, *My Sister*, *Oedipus Machina*, *Theatre in the Dark* (LA Weekly nomination Best Production of the Year), *Way to Heaven* (LA Weekly and LADCC nomination for Best Production of the Year), *Adding Machine: A Musical*, *The Arsonists* (LA Weekly nomination for Best Direction) *Sliding Into Hades* (Best Production of the Year, LA Weekly), *Kafka Thing!*, *Far Away* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Ron has led the Odyssey throughout its 49-year history.

## **EMMA WHITLEY**

### **Stage Manager**

Emma is a junior theatre arts major studying stage management at Loyola Marymount University. She has worked on many shows throughout her college years, including *Three Sisters*, *Nine* and the Odyssey Theatre's own *Freud's Last Session*. She spent her last spring semester studying theatre in Bonn, Germany and Moscow in conjunction with the Moscow Art Theatre. She is incredibly excited to return to the Odyssey and help bring this funny and genuine production to life.

## **GREGORY VELASCO KUCUKARSLAN**

### **Assistant Director**

Greg is excited to be making his debut at The Odyssey Theatre. He has previously assisted on *Mutual Consent* by Nancy Bell at California Repertory Company and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* by Stephen Adly-Guitgis at Cal State Long Beach. His directing credits include *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay-Abaire and *Threshold Live!*, an ensemble written sketch comedy show. Greg was also artistic director of Theater Threshold (a student-run non-profit theatre organization) at Cal State Long Beach, where he received his BA in performance studies. In his free time he enjoys traveling the world as well as restoring, in his '71 Volkswagen bus.

## **MATTHEW GOLD**

### **Associate Casting Director**

Matthew is a working actor/casting director in the LA area. He currently serves as the executive casting director for The Matts Productions LLC. Matthew's recent credits include casting a film for social media star Eva Gutowski. He is also a freelance associate for feature films, and a slew of national commercials and web series'. You can catch him acting in the current season of Disney Channel's *K.C. Undercover* as Howard Morris. Thank you to Dana Resnick and the Odyssey staff for including him in this production!

## **Chai**



The word chai means “living” or “life.” It’s related to the traditional Jewish toast l’chayim, “to life.” The chai (pronounced like “hi” in English) is a potent symbol that all Jews, young and old, traditional and otherwise, recognize and understand.

Since the word’s two letters (chet and yud) add up to eighteen in Jewish numerology, Jews often give monetary gifts in multiples of eighteen to wish the recipient the blessing of long life. Similarly, some Jewish people wear chai necklaces for good fortune – and as a cultural symbol connecting the wearer to the living Jewish tradition.

The chai is an important symbol to a people that throughout history has faced many obstacles. The literal translation of the chai is “live,” a command; a command to live by God’s laws, to survive, and to live a life worth living. To the Jewish people, the chai is a reminder to value the time you have on earth. Do not simply exist, but work, struggle, laugh, cry, smile, and love.

## GLOSSARY

**hora** - a Israeli dance in which the performers form a ring

**Howard Zinn** – (1922–2010) was an American playwright and social activist.

**JCC** - Jewish Community Center

**Martin van Buren** – (1782–1862) was an American politician who served as the eighth President of the United States (1837–41)

**menorah** – a candelabrum used in Jewish worship, typically with eight branches

**Nicholas Sparks** – (1965) is an American novelist, screenwriter and producer

**aliyah** – the mmigration of Jews from the diaspora to Israel, one of the most basic beliefs of Zionism

**Eat Pray Love** – a 2006 memoir by American author Elizabeth Gilbert

**Hillel Club** – student group that serves the Jewish students on campus

**Passover** – a Jewish festival commemorating the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt

**seder** - a Jewish ritual service and ceremonial dinner for the first night or first two nights of Passover

**shofars** – ram's-horn trumpet formerly used by Jews as an ancient battle signal and now used in Jewish religious ceremonies

**slichah** – Hebrew for Excuse me, Sorry

**shiksa** – (used especially by Jews) a nonJewish woman or girl

**shiva** – a traditional period of mourning in Judaism that lasts one week for the immediate family

**UVM** – University of Vermont

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Scenic Charge.....	Josh La Cour
Master Carpenters .....	Danny Felix, Joe Behm
Technical Assistant.....	Robert Fox
Scenic Painters .....	Sofia Cassidy, Lillian O'Brien
Casting Director Associate .....	Matt Gold
Publicist .....	Lucy Pollak
Photography .....	Enci
Graphic Designs .....	Richard Mantel, Peter Simpson Cook
Promotional Video .....	Meghan O'Brien
Spring Intern/Scenic Painter .....	Izaura Avitia
Special Thanks .....	Loyola Marymount University, Arnab Banerji

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### **VOLUNTEERS**

If you would like information on how to volunteer at the Odyssey, please call 310-477-2055, ext. 107.

Thank you!

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

• TALK BACKS give audience members a chance to  
discuss plot, character, themes or any other questions directly with the artists with a  
post-show Q+A from the stage.

Talk Backs are scheduled for May 9, 18 and May 27

Bringing a group? Call the box office to schedule a Talk Back by calling Mark at 310-477-2055 ext. 2

• WINE NIGHT FRIDAY (*the third Friday of every month*) FREE with the price of admission. Socialize with other audience  
members, artists and staff throughout the season at our monthly Friday wine night and late-night nosh.

Complimentary sparkling starting at 7:00 pm.

• TIX FOR \$10 performances are on April 27, May 30 and June 14.



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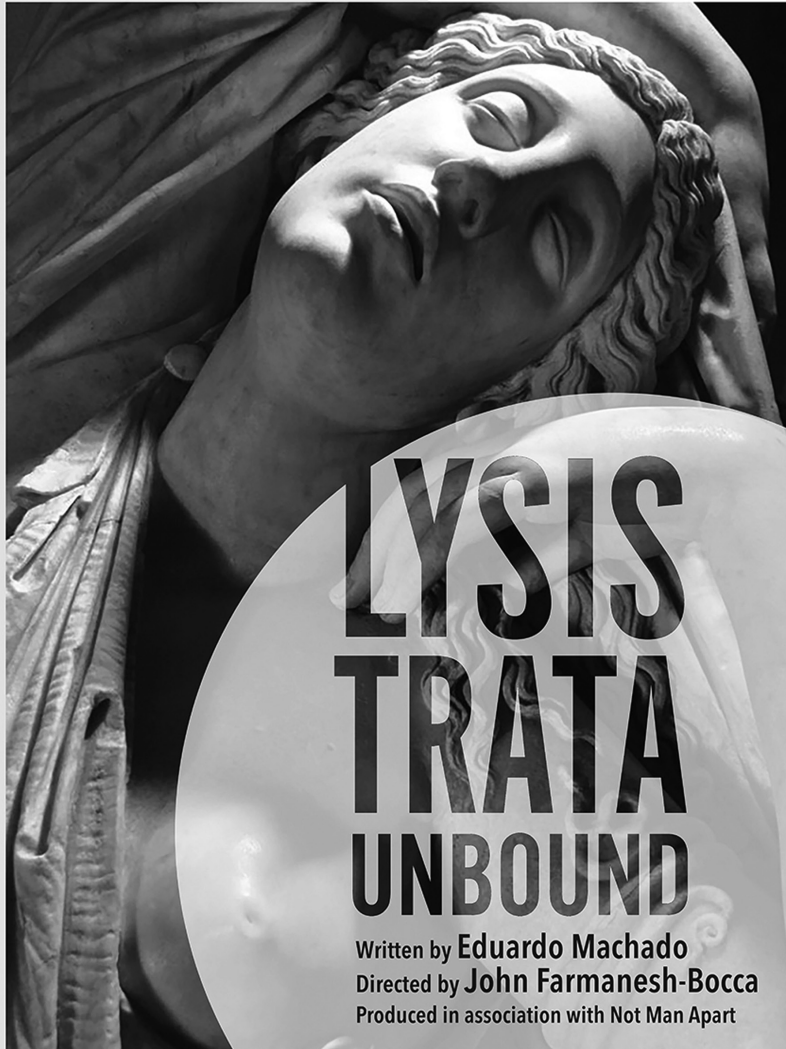
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