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**SYNOPSIS**

Beloved Grandpa Poppy has passed away and his family has gathered in New York City to mourn him and sit Shiva. College senior Daphna has joined her cousin Jonah (also a college student… sometimes), in a small studio apartment down the hall from his parents’ place. When his brother Liam, a graduate student, and Liam’s girlfriend Melody arrive after cutting short their skiing vacation, Liam is upset to find they will be sharing the space with Daphna, whom he cannot abide. A savagely comic duel unfolds between the two cousins about who is more deserving of a pendant belonging to their grandfather, which has powerful familial and historical significance. Jonah, who does everything he can to avoid the conflict, ends up transcending it by connecting to Poppy’s legacy in an unexpected and profound way.

**ABOUT THE PLAY**

CHARACTERS

DAPHNA: 22, Liam & Jonah's first cousin. 2/3 body, 1/3 hair. Thick, intense, curly, frizzy, long brown hair. Hair that clogs a drain after one shower. Hair you find on pillows and in corners of the room and in your refrigerator six months after the head from which it grew last visited. Hair that could not be straightened even if you had four hours and three hairdressers double-fisting blow driers. Hair that screams: Jew.

JONAH: 21, Liam's younger brother. Sometime-UVM sophomore. Less lanky than his brother. Less brainy. More brawn. More heart.

LIAM: 25, Daphna's cousin: his mother is the sister of Daphna's father. Wire-rim glasses. U of Chicago Asian studies Ph.D. student. Former Fulbright scholar in Japan. Has as much of a sense of humor as an overdue library book.

MELODY: 24, Liam's girlfriend. Short, stick-straight blonde hair. Which she wears with a barrette… to be extra cute. Mousy. She looks like someone who would have been abducted when she was nine but returned to her parents unharmed. Works for a Non-Profit.

**SETTING**

TIME: March. Not quite winter, not quite spring.

PLACE: A studio apartment on the Upper West Side. Riverside Drive and 84th Ave, overlooking the Hudson River.

**ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

Joshua Harmon is a New York City-based playwright whose works include Bad Jews and Significant Other. Born in Manhattan, he spent his formative years in Brooklyn before his parents moved the family to the suburbs where he grew up. His newest play Significant Other opened at Roundabout this summer (2016). His work has been produced and developed by Manhattan Theatre Club, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Hangar Theatre, Ars Nova, and Actor's Express, where he was the 2010-2011 National New Play Network Playwright-in-Residence. He has received fellowships from MacDowell, Atlantic Center for the Arts, SPACE at Ryder Farm, and the Eudora Welty Foundation. Joshua holds an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, a graduate degree from Carnegie Mellon, and is a recent graduate of Juilliard’s Playwrights Program. He is currently at work on commissions for Roundabout Theatre Company and Lincoln Center Theater.

**PRODUCTION HISTORY**

PRODUCTIONS Bad Jews received its world premiere at the Roundabout Underground in New York City and was the first production to transfer to Roundabout’s Laura Pels Theatre (Outer Critics Circle and Lucille Lortel Award nominations, Best Play). It has since become the third most-produced play in the United States this season and transferred to London’s West End after sell-out runs at Theatre Royal Bath and the St. James Theatre.

**CRITICAL RESPONSE** "Critic's Pick. There’s nothing like a death in the family to bring out the worst in people. This unhappy truth is displayed with delectably savage humor in 'Bad Jews,' a zesty play by Joshua Harmon...[that is] THE BEST COMEDY OF THE SEASON." - The New York Times

"Four stars. Watching 'Bad Jews,' you may change your mind about who the title refers to. But you'll also be consistently impressed by this fast and funny, pungent and poignant comedy by Joshua Harmon." - New York Daily News "[In] Joshua Harmon’s strikingly perceptive comedy with claws, Daphna is one of the most memorable characters to come down the pike in some time. Harmon’s biting script, which unfolds in 100 minutes of real time...marks him as a new theatrical voice to be reckoned with." - Backstage

"'Bad Jews' is delicious, nasty fun... Equal parts brains and brawl, Joshua Harmon's play isn't a textbook comedy of hostility, but a smart, divisive conversation starter." - New York Post