



POWERFUL STORIES. BOLDLY TOLD. 40 YEARS STRONG.

163 3RD ST N, ST PETERSBURG, FL 33701

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2018

Contact: The American Stage

Marketing Team

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**American Stage presents the
Tampa Bay Area Premiere of Bad Jews**
This play is a seriously smart comedy about family, faith and legacy
running July 11 through August 5.

GET IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

1. NY TIMES CRITICS' PICK "BEST COMEDY OF THE YEAR"

This hilarious yet heartfelt play holds nothing back in its exploration of what it means to be a Jewish millennial in America. Our 2017-18 Season, WE THE PEOPLE, features a lively array of characters in pursuit of respect, understanding, trust, forgiveness, acceptance, love, community, and freedom. Wrapping up this season, this play invites people to continue the conversation and celebrate what it is to be a human being.

2. A TAMPA BAY AREA PREMIERE

BAD JEWS became one of the most-produced plays in America after making its NY premiere in 2013 and was nominated for both 'Best Play' for the Lucille Lortel awards as well as 'Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play' for the Outer Critics Circle awards.

3. WRITTEN BY EMERGING YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT JOSHUA HARMON

2013 Playwright in Residence at the National Playwrights Conference of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Joshua Harmon is a 35 year old playwright responsible for new play sensations such as BAD JEWS, SIGNIFICANT OTHER, ADMISSIONS (2018 Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards for Best Play), and SKINTIGHT (starring Idina Menzel).

"Joshua Harmon wrote BAD JEWS a few years after attending an awkward Holocaust memorial service that left him considering how his generation will manage the responsibility of passing on this history. Hailed as "The best comedy of the season." by the New York Times, this play is also a smart, incisive examination of how younger generations choose to protect the profound legacies of their forebearers."

- Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage concludes its 2017-18 Season 'WE THE PEOPLE' with BAD JEWS written by Joshua Harmon and directed by Amy Resnick (American Stage debut). This Tampa Bay Area premiere features 3 cast members making their American Stage debut; Jenny Lester*, Jackson Goldberg*, and Kate Berg plus the return of Matt Acquard (Much Ado).

"Harmon has managed to write a raucous comedy that is fed with a healthy level of sorrow - Laughing through tears, that's the kind of theater that excites me." - Amy Resnick, Director

Synopsis:

The night after their grandfather's funeral, three cousins engage in a verbal battle. In one corner is Daphna, a 'Real Jew' who is volatile, self-assured, and unbending. In the other corner, her equally stubborn cousin Liam, a secular and entitled young man, with his 'shiksa' girlfriend, Melody, in tow. Stuck in the middle is Liam's

brother, Jonah, who tries to stay out of the fray as a vicious and hilarious brawl over family, faith, and legacy ensues in this biting comedy. **Contains adult language.**

The following includes information on the cast, production, performance dates, and ticketing information, as well as a listing of special events associated with the production.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

JOSHUA HARMON'S plays include BAD JEWS (Outer Critics Circle and Lucille Lortel nominations, Best Play) and SIGNIFICANT OTHER, both of which had their world premieres at the Roundabout Theatre. BAD JEWS was the third most produced play around the country last season, was produced on the West End in London after productions at Theatre Royal Bath and the St. James, and has had productions in Australia, Canada, Israel, and South Africa. Fellowships include MacDowell, Atlantic Center for the Arts, NNPN/Actor's Express, SPACE at Ryder Farm, and the Eudora Welty Foundation. A graduate of Juilliard, he is under commission from Roundabout, Lincoln Center, and Manhattan Theatre Club.

CAST

Jenny Lester* (Daphna Feygenbaum)

Jackson Goldberg* (Liam Haber)

Matt Acquard (Jonah Haber)

Kate Berg (Melody)

CREATIVE

Amy Resnick (Director)

Stephanie Gularte (Costume Designer)

Jill Castle (Costume Design Assistant)

Phillip Franck (Lighting Designer)

Stephen Mitchell (Scenic Designer)

Jerid Fox (Properties Master)

Ed Lee (Sound Designer)

Allison Davis (Scenic Painter)

Dan Granke (Fight Director)

Rachel Harrison* (Production Stage Manager)

* = Member of Actors' Equity Association; # = Member of the United Scenic Artists Union

For Cast Bios please visit americanstage.org/BADJEWS

LINK to press releases: AmericanStage.org/media

LINK to promotional photos: [Flickr American Stage](#)

**Publicity photo credit: Joey Clay Photography. Archival photo credit: Kara Goldberg. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact marketing@americanstage.org for immediate needs.*

BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW

Throughout the run of *BAD JEWS*, ticket holders are invited to arrive early for an exclusive **PROLOGUE** presented by selected American Stage's professional Teaching Artist (Molly Healy) 30 minutes prior to each performance.

Also, enjoy drink specials every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night post-show. Stick around after the show for lively café conversations. You never know what special guest may arrive.

TALKS & EVENTS – FULL DETAILS

American Stage has also programmed several audience experience opportunities surrounding the production. Visit americanstage.org/CLOSER and click the **TALKS & EVENTS** tab for a full listing of events.

Spotlight Series: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

2-Part Series!

Part 1: Young & Jewish Now. Sunday, July 1 at 1PM

Part 2: American & Jewish, Today & Tomorrow. Sunday, July 29 at 4:30PM (following the 3pm performance)

Great theatre inspires contemplation and challenges our assumptions while inviting us to come together for conversation and a deeper connection. From social and political hot-button issues to ethical dilemmas, American Stage's Community Conversations dig deeper into the intriguing and sometimes provocative topics explored by our mainstage productions. Join a panel of local experts as they guide us through a lively discussion, and answer questions about the relevancy of the subject matter explored in the play.

Community Conversation Part 1: Young & Jewish Now

The perfect primer before the play opens! Peek behind the scenes, and begin to explore the important questions sparked by this controversial, family-focused story. The event will include a short presentation providing context and backstory on the play and playwright, an interview with the director, Amy Resnick, and a panel discussion about Jewish legacy in the hands of a younger generation.

Sunday, July 1 at 1PM

Free and open to the public

Special Guests: Amy Resnick (Director), Abby Sterensis, Trustee at Temple Beth-El, and Dean Hershkowitz, Board of Trustees – President, for Congregation B'nai Israel St Pete

Community Conversation Part 2: Jewish & American, Today & Tomorrow

After you have seen the production, join us for an inter-generational panel discussion about Jewish legacy and family life as millennials grow into adulthood. How do we balance tradition and progress? Can and how do Jewish Americans stay united? How do differing perspectives on culture and history impact family dynamics, as well as the fabric of community?

Sunday, July 29 at 4:30pm (following the 3pm performance)

Free and open to the public

Special Guests: Barbara Mazer Gross, Executive Director of Studio@620, congregant of Temple Beth-El, and member of musical groups The Jammin Jews and the Palm Trio.

Additional Events:

Friday, July 13 | Reception at 7PM | Performance at 8pm

Opening Night

Celebrate with the stars! Enjoy a pre-show reception sponsored by The Hanger with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, rub elbows with the cast & creative team, witness the unveiling of an original piece of art inspired

by this play, and be among the first to see one of our first-class productions. There will also be a post-show dessert reception with the cast.

Saturday, July 14 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

Media Night

Join us Saturday, July 14 for our Media Night hosted by Jewish Press. Mix and mingle with friends and colleagues for a fun night out. **Community Engagement Sponsor: Jewish Press**

BAD JEWS Thursday, July 19 | Sunday, July 22 & 29*

Spotlight Series: CHATBACK – BAD JEWS

Stick around immediately following select performances to talk with the cast and other audience members while the experience of the play is fresh! Ask questions about the play, the characters, and the process, plus respond to the story and ideas aroused by the production. Free for ticket holders to the performance.

**The chatback scheduled for 7/29 has been changed to a Community Conversation directly following the matinee performance.*

Friday, July 20 | Happy Hour 7-8PM | Performance at 8PM

Artist Meet and Greet Reception with Tracy Copes and Chancellor Joyer + Young Professionals Night

On the second Friday, stop by our lobby to celebrate the visual artwork of **Tracy Copes and Under 20 artist, Chancellor Joyer**. American Stage will host a gallery show through the run of the show and will also display an original work inspired by this production. **Community Engagement Sponsor: Creative Loafing**

PLUS - Young Professionals Night: Young professionals under 40 can enjoy drink specials and conversation with the artists. Young people under 30 can access our UNDER 30 PASS, our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month. UNDER 20 Passport holders can attend our Mainstage productions for FREE. Call the Box Office at [727-823-7529](tel:727-823-7529) or email youngamericans@americanstage.org.

Friday, July 27 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

LADIES Night: Grab friends, bring a date and turn your ordinary Friday evening into a one-of-a-kind night out highlighting some really awesome local women.

Friday, August 3 | Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

PRIDE PLUS Night

Happy Hour at 7PM | Performance at 8PM

Enjoy a night OUT at the theatre, with Happy Hour drink specials, and meet some local LGBT+ trendsetters and change-makers.

FEATURED VISUAL ARTIST

In our final artist collaboration of this season, Tracy Copes mentored Under 20 artist, Chancellor Joyer to unveil their Signature Original Artwork on Opening Night which will kick-off a joint gallery showing through the close of the production. This 2017-18 Season, 'WE THE PEOPLE', celebrates a partnership with local talents of seven visual artists and one photographer to create elements of the 2017-18 season selections.

Tracy Copes and Under 20 artist, Chancellor Joyer were invited to attend rehearsals, interact with the development of the set, lighting and costume designers which will further inform his artistic perspective. Inspired by the collaborative creative process of theatre-making, they will create a Signature Original Artwork that will be donated as a fundraiser for the American Stage 40FORWARD fund campaign.

Going one step further in this process, American Stage will donate the use of their gallery space to further highlight the impact of artists of all disciplines within the community. Tracy Copes and Under 20 artist, Chancellor Joyer will present a **Gallery Show & Artist Reception, sponsored by Creative Loafing**, at American Stage on Friday, July 20. This exhibit will run concurrently with production. This season American Stage asks the community to be a part of the WE THE PEOPLE movement and celebrate the arts in the Tampa Bay area!

"It's such a privilege to work with American Stage, it provides a way for me to be involved in the arts community, meet and work with amazing people and create something meaningful. It is especially exciting to be involved in a project that highlights the uniqueness and the equality of all people... I think it is more important than ever to come together, build a greater sense of community and collaborate on ideas and projects that will move us all forward."

—Tracy Copes, Visual Artist for BAD JEWS

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents BAD JEWS by Joshua Harmon

WHERE: Raymond James Theatre
163 3rd Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

WHEN: July 11 through August 5, 2018

Preview Wednesday, July 11, 7pm, "Pay What You Can"

Preview Thursday, July 12, 8pm, \$29 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, July 13, 8pm, \$59 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through August 5, 2018

Arrive 30 minutes early to get the inside scoop on the play.

TIMES & PRICES

Wednesdays 7pm, \$39 tickets

Thursdays 8pm, \$39 tickets

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm, \$49 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 3pm, \$39 tickets

Under 30 years of age (UNDER 30 PASS): Our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month.

Under 20 years of age (UNDER 20 PASSPORT - suggested 12-19): FREE tickets to American Stage's mainstage season. A bold experiment in 2018.

Contact the box office about our UNDER 30 PASS & UNDER 20 PASSPORT. Visit americanstage.org/ya for details.

This production contains adult language.

SERVICE & FACILITIES

Physical Accessibility: The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating.

Displaying a valid disabled parking permit will allow you to park at City metered spaces for FREE, for as long as your event requires, including those posted with time limit signs (green signs). This does not apply to loading zones or otherwise restricted parking signage (red signs).

Large Print Program: Theatregoers may peruse large print programs for each Mainstage production.

Listening System: Theatregoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat.



AMERICAN STAGE | AS/40

American Stage celebrates **40 Years Strong** this season. Since 1977, American Stage, has contributed to the vitality of Tampa Bay as a regional professional theatre. American Stage's mission is to reinforce the power of live theatre with high quality productions that excite and challenge a diverse audience. Our year-round programming seeks to realize this through our Mainstage season, Spotlight Series, 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival, American Stage in the Park and Improv. American Stage Education's offerings include award-winning Teaching Artist Outreach focused on bringing theatrical arts experiences to underserved populations, helping them to excel onstage & beyond.

We believe that through the telling of dynamic stories, live theatre has the power to unite us in our shared experiences and to deepen our connection to one another through the illumination of diverse perspectives. American Stage artists and stakeholders are responsible for helping a small theatre touring company blossom into a thriving world-class professional theatre providing nearly 70,000 Tampa Bay residents and tourists with accessible, relevant art and arts education annually.

Powerful Stories. Boldly Told. 40 Years Strong.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@americanstage

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Email: BoxOffice@americanstage.org

Location: 163 3rd St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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