

Ophelia's Jump Productions 2018 |  
Bad Jews by Joshua Harmon

*Production Details, Audition Information and Character Breakdown*

**Production Dates and Details –**

Thursday, November 29, 7:30pm Preview  
Friday, November 30, 8 pm  
Saturday, December 1, 8pm  
Sunday, December 2, 4pm  
Friday, December 7, 8pm  
Saturday, December 8, 8pm  
Sunday, December 9, 4pm  
Friday, December 14, 8pm  
Saturday, December 15, 3pm  
Saturday, December 15, 8pm

Producer – Ophelia's Jump Productions  
Founding Artistic Director, Beatrice Casagran; Associate Artistic Director, Caitlin Lopez  
Director – Nicki Heskin, OJP Artistic Company Member

Rehearsals and Performances will be held at  
Ophelia's Jump Productions Studio Theater, 2009 Porterfield Way, Suite H, Upland, CA 91786.

**Rehearsals –**

Saturday, November 3 – Wednesday, November 28. Pickup Rehearsal Thursday, December 6.  
(Off for Thanksgiving Holiday Wed., Nov. 21-Fri, Nov. 23.)  
Tech – Saturday November 24-Wednesday, November 28  
A rehearsal calendar with daily dates and times is available at [Opheliasjump.org/auditions](http://Opheliasjump.org/auditions).

Please be prepared to provide a detailed list of conflicts prior to or at auditions. Due to the small cast and ensemble nature of the production, only very limited conflicts may be able to be considered. Tech week and performance conflicts will not be considered.

**Audition Dates and Details –**

Sunday, October 14, 10am-2pm and Monday, October 15, 7-9pm, by appointment. Please email Nicki Heskin, director, at [bruingrad@yahoo.com](mailto:bruingrad@yahoo.com) with your resume and headshot to request an appointment time.

Please prepare a 1-2 minute memorized contemporary monologue. Please be familiar with the play and be prepared to read from the script. Sides are listed below and available for viewing/download at [Opheliasjump.org/auditions](http://Opheliasjump.org/auditions).

A travel stipend/honorarium is available for all roles based upon role, experience and distance.

## **Character Breakdown –**

**Daphna Feygenbaum** – Stage Age 22 – Liam and Jonah’s first cousin. 2/3 body, 1/3 hair. Thick, intense, curly, frizzy, long brown hair. Hair that screams: Jew.

Daphna is very connected to her Jewish heritage and is politically Zionist. Her Birthright trip was a significant and formative event in her life. She sees herself as a “good Jew.” She is highly opinionated and intelligent, and easily lets insecurity turn into aggression towards her opponents. Subtlety is not in her nature. Despite the character’s argumentative nature, the actress must have the ability to approach the material with a sense of humor and wit and possess strong comedic timing.

**Liam Haber** – Stage Age 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 Fullbright scholar in Japan. Has as much sense of humor as an overdue library book.

Self-proclaimed “bad Jew,” Liam is connected to his Judaism through familial heritage more than religion or culture. He is highly intelligent with a quick temper and lost his tolerance for Daphna years ago. Through his relationship with Melody, we see the best in Liam, and through Daphna, his worst.

**Jonah Haber** – THIS ROLE HAS BEEN CAST

**Melody** – Stage Age 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.

From Delaware, pretty and unassuming, Melody tries to find the good in every situation, desires to be the problem solver, and is a peace keeper by nature. She imagines a world and a future where race and religion don’t matter. She majored in opera in undergrad but couldn't handle the pressure of auditioning and rejection. Actress must be comfortable singing - a classically trained voice is not needed as she is not impressively talented, but she isn't terrible either. Very clearly not Jewish – script specifies blonde hair and blue eyes.

A note on character and look –

Josh Harmon chose to focus a good deal on look in his script breakdown for these characters (the first section of each character description). While many plays admirably strive to tell story without regard for ethnicity and look, for Bad Jews to work, Daphna and Liam must broadcast their Jewish background and Melody decidedly \*not.\* We are telling a story of identity and affiliation and heritage – the experiences and perceptions of these characters created by their look is significant to both them and to our audiences. Though there may be more flexibility of a range of looks than specifically what Josh Harmon describes that can accomplish these goals, we are bound by the story and script to honor their sensibility. There is obviously a great deal more to these characters than their look – I encourage you to become familiar with the full play, and if you feel that you can truthfully honor these characters within the lines and action of the script, please reach out to share with us what you can bring.

## **Audition Sides**

Sides are listed below and available for viewing/download at [Opheliasjump.org/auditions](http://Opheliasjump.org/auditions).

### **Daphna-Melody**

pp23-24

From DAPHNA: I love your hair.

To MELODY: It was more symbolic, really, more than anything.

pp27-28

From DAPHNA: What's your background?

To DAPHNA: It matters to me very much.

### **Liam-Jonah**

pp21-22

From LIAM: I'll sleep in the kitchen.

To LIAM: I'm relaxed...let's just make some room.

### **Daphna-Jonah**

pp11-13

From DAPHNA: What are you doing?

To DAPHNA: It's not even worth it.

### **Liam-Daphna-Melody**

Pp48-49

From LIAM: I don't care where you go...

To MELODY: Thank you...so maybe let's go to bed.

### **Liam Monologue**

pp37 – section A before Daphna's "Are you done?" and section B after.