

# BAD JEWS

by Joshua Harmon

a blistering modern comedy

**NVT**

**NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE**

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

PERFORMANCES:


Fri 16th - Sat 24th March 2018 - 7.45 pm

Sun Matinee - 2.30pm

(No Sun/Mon eves)

ONLINE BOOKING: [www.newventure.org.uk/tickets](http://www.newventure.org.uk/tickets)

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION: 01273 746118

 @nvt\_brighton

An Amateur Production in association with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD

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THEATRE ✦

NEW WRITING ✦

CLASSES ✦

LICENSED BAR ✦

50p

# BAD JEWS

It's a title that certainly grabs the attention. London Underground rose clumsily to the bait when they refused to allow posters for the original UK production, fearing "widespread serious offence". They ended up looking rather silly when it was pointed out that the play had been (a) performed across the world to great acclaim for the last two years, (b) consistently praised for its integrity, and (c) awarded a 5-star review by the Jewish Chronicle.

The title is just a trick of words, to catch our interest and curiosity. The billboards for the original production also called it "a seriously smart comedy about family, faith, and legacy" - less eye-catching but a very fair description. The play does indeed pose lots of questions about competing claims as to what makes a 'good' or 'bad' member of any family, any religion or belief, any cultural background. But the great delight of this play is that it presents its questions so generously wrapped - in a massive helping of humour and daring comedy.

The action accelerates through 100 minutes "real time" (so no interval!) in a studio apartment in Manhattan, where our four young people are thrown together for the night, after the funeral of a beloved grandfather. All sorts of tensions and disagreements burst out, but the big battle is about which of the four most deserves to inherit a tiny item of the old man's jewellery - so tiny, but packing a huge significance for the family.

I love this play because it does the kind of things that only theatre can. We get extreme arguments, insults, embarrassments, swearly tempers and emotional meltdowns. We also get great flashes of humanity, insight and sympathy. But along with all that we get an almost unlimited licence to laugh - with the characters, and at the characters, and at all the situations they let themselves fall into. As with many of the finest plays, these elements work together as a complete "whole" - we get to think about some really serious stuff while we're having enormous fun and engagement with the characters, the humour and the action.

It's a work that struck me immediately as energetic, ambitious and young at heart. What better qualities to inspire the people involved in making a show - and hopefully to captivate the lovely people who come to see it! It's been more than 20 years since I directed at NVT and it's great to see close-up just how much has happened and developed over that time. And I can also see one sure thing that's remained constant - the commitment to create a quality theatre experience. It's been a delight working with such a talented young team of actors and with the many dedicated volunteers in the production team and in all areas of support for the successful running of NVT.

**Bob Ryder (Director)**

## **CAST (in order of appearance)**

<b>Jonah :</b>	<b>Chris Knight</b>
<b>Daphna :</b>	<b>Emmie Spencer</b>
<b>Liam :</b>	<b>Matthew Wyn Davies</b>
<b>Melody :</b>	<b>Sarah Drew</b>

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

<b>Director :</b>	<b>Bob Ryder</b>
<b>Production Manager :</b>	<b>Ulrike Schilling</b>
<b>Stage Manager :</b>	<b>Michelle Harris</b>
<b>Stage Manager :</b>	<b>Rachel Mills</b>
<b>Stage Manager :</b>	<b>Max Videaux</b>
<b>Set Design :</b>	<b>Simon Glazier</b>
<b>Set Construction :</b>	<b>Simon Glazier, Peter Meekings, George Walter, Strat Mastoris, Ingrid Styles</b>
<b>Set Painting &amp; Dressing :</b>	<b>Hannah Clark, Emmie Spencer, Chris Knight</b>
<b>Lighting Design :</b>	<b>Strat Mastoris</b>
<b>Rigging :</b>	<b>Strat Mastoris</b>
<b>Lighting Operation :</b>	<b>Erica Fletcher, Beatrice Cupido</b>
<b>Sound Operation :</b>	<b>David Miller, Max Videaux</b>
<b>Rehearsal Prompt :</b>	<b>Hermione Huxley</b>
<b>Props :</b>	<b>Hannah Clark, Rachel Mills, Hermione Huxley</b>
<b>Artwork :</b>	<b>Judith Berrill</b>
<b>Programme :</b>	<b>Tamsin Mastoris</b>
<b>Photography :</b>	<b>Strat Mastoris</b>
<b>Publicity &amp; Marketing :</b>	<b>Emmie Spencer</b>
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	<b>Ian Black</b>

**RUNNING TIME:** 100 minutes (approx)

**NB.** There is no interval

## **THE SETTING**

**A studio apartment in the Upper West Side, New York City**

**March 2018 - between winter and spring**

**Many thanks :**

to Sussex Beacon for their kind loan of props, to Julia Monkcom for makeup advice, and as always to Jazz Bowden and the Front of House Team, Chris Stubbs and Box Office Team without whom no show would ever go on.

### **Chris Knight (*Jonah*)**

This is Chris' fourth production at the NVT following on from his debut as Joey in *The Homecoming* (2017), various roles in *Lulu* (2017) and *The Guard* in *Antigone* (2017). He hopes to study at drama school this September.



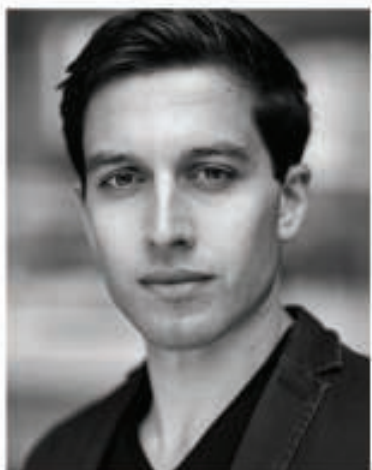
### **Emmie Spencer (*Daphna*)**

Emmie has appeared in several productions at the NVT since her debut in *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2012. Recent roles include Hester Collyer in *The Deep Blue Sea* (2017), Fay McMahon in *Loot* (2016), and Ruth Ellis in *The Thrill Of Love* (2015).

Recent roles elsewhere include Lola in Broken Silence Theatre's *Bug Camp* (Winner of Best New Play at Brighton Fringe 2017) and Matron in Kasabian's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*-inspired music video *You're in Love with a Psycho* (WIZ/Sony Music 2017).

### **Matthew Wyn Davies (*Liam*)**

*Bad Jews* is Matt's third production at the NVT following his debut as Philip Welch in *The Deep Blue Sea* (2017) and various roles in *Lulu* (2017). Matt has taken acting classes at the Academy of Creative Training in Kemp Town, Brighton, as well as at the NVT itself.



### **Sarah Drew (*Melody*)**

Sarah trained at Bretton Hall in Theatre Acting and Music and has an MA in Scriptwriting from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Theatre credits include Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Myrtle in Tennessee Williams' *Kingdom of Earth* (Brighton Little Theatre) and Wife in Berkoff's *Greek* at Brighton Fringe Festival. Outside of the theatre, she divides her time between screenwriting, producing, and singing.



### **Bob Ryder (*Director*)**

Bob has worked across Sussex as an actor and director for the last 30 years. His previous shows at NVT have been as director for *Death and the Maiden* (1996) and as actor in *Moscow Stations* (1997) *Betrayal* (2001) *Woman in Mind* (2011) and *Broken Glass* (2016).

He has also worked extensively at the Barn Theatre in Southwick (for Wick Theatre Company) and out in the fresh air at Worthing's Highdown Gardens (for Rainbow Shakespeare Company). Among the 30-odd productions Bob has directed locally, Shakespeare looms largest - and the other playwrights who crop up most are Ibsen, Chekhov, Stoppard and the two Alans (Bennett and Ayckbourn). Next on the horizon is an acting role - as Prospero (*The Tempest*) this summer.

### Joshua Harmon (*Playwright*)

*Bad Jews* wasn't Joshua Harmon's first play - but he says it was the first one to last for more than three nights! Written when he was still in his 20s, *Bad Jews* opened in Roundabout Theatre's 60-seater studio space in New York in 2012. It was then moved into their 400-seat main theatre the following year. And then it really took off.

From 2014 it has been performed widely across the USA and in various productions in Canada, Australia, Germany, Israel and South Africa. The UK premiere was at Bath's Theatre Royal in 2014 - and that production then had a long London run and UK tour (including a visit to Brighton's Theatre Royal in October 2015) before returning for another London run in 2016.

Harmon's next play, *Significant Other*, opened in New York in 2015 and was still playing on Broadway last year. A new play, *Admissions*, opened last month in New York - and a newly commissioned play, *Skintight*, is scheduled to premiere off-Broadway this summer.



## **New Venture Theatre Celebrates 70 Years in Brighton**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of the New Venture Theatre's Festival of the Arts, in celebration of our 70th Anniversary.

Throughout April we offer you a smorgasbord of delights, showcasing the creative talents of our friends old and new.

The fabulous Fannytasticals perform as part of the comedy fest on opening night, April 6th. The following evening includes the world premiere of a new revealing play about Noel Coward, with musical interludes, 'Mad About The Boy'. April 11th shines a light on the theatre's history and some of the key players within it. Later in the month we have gorgeous poetry + prose on the 13th, 21st century podcasting on the 14th, a film fest on the 18th and a sneak preview of fringe festival highlights on the 20th. We close proceedings on Saturday 21st with a free night of sensational songs from the shows, accompanied by much merriment in our delightful theatre bar.

The Producer of the April celebrations, Gerry McCrudden said; "We have been a feature of the theatre and creative scene in the city and the county for seven decades. Over the years we have produced nearly 700 shows involving many thousands of people be it in the audience, on stage and backstage. We wanted to celebrate them and all their efforts. We stand on their shoulders"

For more details, please visit our website [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk) or phone 01273 746118 for the Box Office.

Some events are free, others cost £5 members/£6 non-members – seating is limited so we advise that you get your tickets soon.



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## Supporting NVT

We are a membership club, founded in 1947. We perform established plays, both classical and contemporary, and are a showcase for new writing. If you are interested in joining us, please pick up a membership form in the foyer. In 1983, NVT bought the freehold of this listed Victorian building which needs constant investment to maintain its integrity. To keep NVT going, we need your financial support, either to add to our regular sponsors (annual package £250) or you can be a Cherub for a fiver, an Angel for £100, Archangel for £500 or an Archangel Gabriel for £1,000. Please look out for the leaflets in the Theatre. As an Angel you will be listed on the Role of Honour in the Theatre.

If you are interested, please email [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk) for more information.

## Contacting the NVT

For ticket information only, call the Box Office - 01273 746118.  
To book tickets or for other information check our website at [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk).  
All other enquiries 01273 808353

## NVYT - Youth Theatre

NVT welcomes all young people (11-17) with a passion for or an interest in theatre.  
Fridays 4.30-6.30pm.

## NVT Acting Class

Monday evenings at 7.30pm for all levels of acting skills. It will cost you just £5 per session (£2.50 for NVT members)  
First visit is FREE!

## Become a Sponsor

£250: Advertise in our brochure, on the website, in each programme and our newsletter for one year. Plus two free tickets per show. Contact [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk) for details. Or why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: [gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com](mailto:gerrymccrudden@hotmail.com).

## Membership

Full (company) membership - £25 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter.  
Student/Unwaged - £13 a year.  
As above... *Proof of status is required.*