

**BAD
JEWS**



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DIRECTED BY

Isabella Marino

PRODUCTION NOTES

If you have been involved to any extent with Clements Theatre this year, you likely know that COVID in the troupe has become “How do you solve a problem like Marino?” If it wasn’t made obvious by the carefully planned seating and mask reminders posted everywhere, safety during this pandemic will always be my top priority. Since most of the cast is too young to have been fully vaccinated by the performance dates, the show was staged in a way that every person could feel safe and comfortable. Actors will be wearing masks. Characters stay distanced from each other throughout the play, at least three feet but typically more. This has presented some unique challenges, as you can imagine. Each actor has spent these last few weeks learning how to act without the bottom half of their face. They have done an incredible job of adapting to the situation they have been placed in, and after all, Clements Theatre is all about adapting.

COVID wasn’t the only circumstance that took some getting used to. Being half-Jewish, I have seen everything this play addresses in my life. From the backhanded, witty dialogue to the effortless guilt trips to simply the title of the play, I knew this was the show for me. Out of the six in the company, though, I am the only one with that connection.

Bad Jews is a play about religion and culture. No religion has higher stakes than Judaism. As comedian John Mulaney so eloquently put it, “Folks are always after them and they gotta stay sharp. They haven’t let their minds wander since Egypt.” Judaism is slipping away, between persecution and younger generations becoming less and less religious. This has created an intense divide. If you’re on one side, the other will dislike you for it. Just look at Daphna and Leah, our central conflict. No one bats an eye at the fact that Leah has a girlfriend. They just need her to be Jewish. Daphna is a character that cares a little too much about this. Leah is a character contributing to the perceived problem. Instead of letting this religion and culture bring them together as a family, they use it to beat each other down. Leah may be the only one open about it, but both characters are “bad Jews” for that reason.

The company of Bad Jews is beyond excited to present to you this darkly comedic family dysfunction. I am honored to share this amazing story as my last show with Clements Theatre and to have worked with this incredible company. Enjoy the show!

COMPANY

EVA CATTERALL Assistant Director/Stage Manager

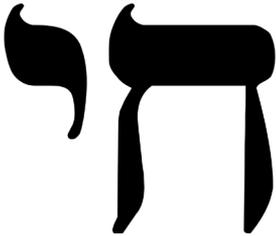
EMMA KUO Daphna

AYCA ZENGINDEMIR Jenna

ELENA YEPSEN Leah

ZIANA SUNDRANI Melody

JUDAISM GLOSSARY



CHAI is the Hebrew word for life. It's two letters, a chet and a yud. Many Jewish men, and now more Jewish people in general, wear it on a necklace. The chai symbol is seen to the left. The characters in the play are often discussing or fighting over their grandfather's chai necklace that he kept during the Holocaust and used to propose to their grandmother.

SHIVA is the week-long mourning period after someone's death after their funeral in Judaism. The idea is to spend a week mourning so after a week life can resume as normal.

PASSOVER is the holiday celebrating the freedom of the Jewish people from their persecution in Egypt. To reflect the fact that these people didn't have time to bake leavened bread before they fled, more religious Jewish people will only eat unleavened foods, such as a large cracker called matzah, during this holiday.

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COMPANY BIOS



EVA CATTERALL (*Assistant Director/Stage Manager*) is a junior at Clements who has been involved on the tech side of theatre since her freshman year, and she is currently still riding a power trip that started when she was given this position. She has had a ton of fun watching a dysfunctional Jewish family fight for hours on end, and cannot wait to see the culmination of her, Izzi, and her cast's hard work! She'd also like to congratulate her cast on such a great job and thank them for always laughing at her jokes. She hopes you enjoy the show!



EMMA KUO (*Daphna*), a sophomore and thespian, is delighted that you came to see her third show at CHS. This is only one of many though. She is deserving of this. She is a devoted thespian. She believes like clearly, without question, she should get this recognition. SHE WANTS THE CHAI! She says sorry, character speaking. Actually, if it wasn't obvious enough, Emma's not Jewish at all, but she loved working on the show all the same. She thanks her director and fellow cast members for their great work! Emma hopes you enjoy the show!



AYCA ZENGINDEMIR (*Jenna*) is a junior at Clements High School, and this is her third time participating in SDOAPS. For the past year, she has been working on shows like *The Trojan Women* and *Twelfth Night* as a stage manager, so it was a nice change to be acting this round. She'd like to thank her castmates and Eva Catterall for all of their hard work and Izzi Marino, her director, for how amazingly she has been bringing this show together and for a fun experience. With all that being said, she hopes you sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!



ELENA YEPSEN (*Leah*) is a freshman at Clements High School. This is her fourth production this year. Previously, she has worked on *The Trojan Women*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Twelfth Night Redacted* as part of costume crew. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for all their hard work on this show. She also thanks her director, Izzi Marino, for giving her this opportunity to work on this excellent show. She's loved working with each and every person in the show and hopes to collaborate with them again soon. She wishes you to enjoy the show.



ZIANA SUNDRANI (*Melody*) didn't really know what to write for this bio, but she decided to try so Izzi wouldn't shame her for not writing one. Speaking of Izzi, Ziana would like to thank Izzi for giving her this amazing role and for making sure things never went, in the words of Melody, kaplooie. Ziana had a lot of fun working with the entire cast, and she has loved all the new experiences that this show has brought her (like getting wayyy too attached to a fish necklace). She hopes to be part of many more shows in the future with Clements Theatre.