

Bad Jews Audition Packet (Fall 2022)

Thank you so much for your interest in auditioning for *Bad Jews*! We are looking for individuals of all levels of experience in theater and the performing arts. If you are interested in getting involved as a member of the production team, please feel free to reach out to either our director, Marissa, or our producer, Spencer (emails listed below).

We plan to have rehearsals in-person 2-3 times per week. You will only be called for rehearsal if your character is in the scene we are reviewing that day. The number of rehearsals each week may be subject to change, particularly as we approach our performance dates. If you have any concerns regarding the production calendar (as shown below), please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of the production team.

While the show is centered around the lived experience of Jewish individuals, we welcome actors of all religions to audition. The Jewish experience is certainly not limited to one gender, race, or ethnicity, and we hope to emphasize this throughout our casting and rehearsal processes.

Below you can find the necessary materials needed to audition for the show. Once again, please email us if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you in the audition room!

Director: Marissa Blum (marissa.blum@yale.edu)

Stage Manager: Naomi Schwartzburt (naomi.schwartzburt@yale.edu)

Producer: Spencer Staak (spencer.staak@yale.edu)

AUDITION TIMELINE

Tuesday, August 30th

Audition Workshop – 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Wednesday, August 31st to Saturday, September 3rd

Audition Blocks – Various Times (sign up on Yale College Arts Page)

Sunday, September 4th

Callback Block #1 – 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Tuesday, September 6th

Callback Block #2 – 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Wednesday, September 7th

Final callbacks/makeup auditions (if needed) — 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Sunday, September 11th

Casting notifications — starting at noon

Performance Dates

Oct. 27th at 7:00pm, Oct. 28th at 7:00pm, Oct. 29th at 2:00pm, Oct 29th at 7:00pm

HOW TO AUDITION

Auditions will be held in room 114 of William Harkness Hall. See cover page for directions.

1. Sign up for an audition slot on our [Yale College Arts](#) page.
2. **Before** your audition, please fill out an [audition form](#). This form can also be found on our Yale College Arts page.
3. The day of your audition, please come ready with a monologue (you can either choose from those provided below, or you can bring your own). After delivering your monologue, Marissa will provide some direction that you can apply during a second run.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Following the death of their grandfather, three cousins come together to discuss the passing on of a beloved family heirloom: a gold chai necklace. The observant Jewish Daphna fights with the workaholic atheist Liam (who brought his non-Jewish girlfriend Melody along) over the necklace, while Liam's brother Jonah just tries to keep the peace. This dark comedy centers on themes of faith, family, and tradition, posing questions about what religion does (or doesn't) mean to each of us.

CONTENT WARNING

Discussions of death, anti-Semitism, anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Japanese racism, homophobia, discussions of colonialism, Holocaust imagery, onstage violence, coarse language

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS (from the play's first edition)

Daphna Feygenbaum: 22, Liam and Jonah's first cousin. Daphna doesn't need the help of her thick, curly, virtually untamable hair to help her stand out: her passion and headstrong personality help her do that all on her own. When she makes up her mind about something, there is nothing that can stop her from getting her way. She seeks to honor her ancestors by closely preserving her religious and cultural connection to Judaism.

Liam Haber: 25, Daphna's paternal cousin. He has a distinct nerdy look, complete with wire-rim glasses. He is a University of Chicago Asian studies Ph.D. student and a former Fulbright scholar in Japan. He has a short temper, especially when it comes to interacting with Daphna, and not much room for a sense of humor.

Jonah Haber: 21, Liam's younger brother. A sophomore at the University of Vermont. What he lacks in the brain, he makes up for in brawn. Indecisive, timid, and avoids conflict like the plague. At his center, he's just a sensitive brother and cousin, trying to do the best for everyone.

Melody: 24, Liam's girlfriend. Straight blonde hair. She tries to see the best in everyone and is ready to stand up for anyone in a heartbeat, which matches the cutesy energy she emanates. Like Jonah, she seeks to avoid conflict, not start it.

AUDITION SIDES

Feel free to pick a side from the options below. If you don't see a monologue you like, bring your own!

Option 1 (from *Schitt's Creek*, Season 4 Episode 12)

Hey, singles, I'm Alexis Rose, and I, like all of you, am single. I would just like to welcome you to the first annual Schitt's Creek Singles Week. Now I know many of you are excited about the lock and key event. The more I think about it, the more I feel like that game kind of sends the wrong message. Because it makes it seem like, as soon as you find the right key, everything's just supposed to work out, right? But life is more complicated than that.

Now I used to think that my one special lock needed to be like super aggressive, and come from a long line of Adriatic royalty, or have a beard, and be really into the woods. Then I realized that sometimes, a special little lock can come along, that you didn't think would fit because it didn't look, or act, like the lock you thought you needed. So instead of actually giving it a real chance, you throw it away because it was too nice. And it like you too much, and cared. And now that lock has found another key, and you are so happy for it, and you just need to accept that and find a new lock.

Option 2 (*First Kiss at Camp*, by Joseph Arnone)

First time I ever kissed a boy was at summer camp. I was in a row boat competition. It was a "who can row the fastest" competition and this kid Josh and I came in first place together.

We were so excited we ran off together towards the woods. It was then that Josh kissed me, right up against the tree. But then something drastically went wrong. I had braces and...so did he. Our faces or I should say, teeth locked together as one. We couldn't separate!

We had to walk back through the woods and all the way across the entire camp with our faces mended together. This caused such an uproar! EVERYBODY took notice of us and started watching. By the time we found the first camp counselor, we had a crowd surrounding us.

I was never so embarrassed in all my life. And to make it worse, the counselor kept asking us stupid questions like, "What happened here? How could this have happened?" And Josh and I are trying to talk and explain while drool is leaking out the side of our mouths. Horrifying!

Eventually, paramedics came and they used some sort of separation clippers to detach our mouths. We had to sit on a log and wait for them to arrive. It must have took forever and the whole time we were waiting the other kids were either laughing, teasing or asking us more dumb questions.

That was my first kiss ever...what was yours like

Option 3 (*A Passover Eulogy: A Fifth Question*, by Hank Kimmel)

Why is this night different from any other night? This is the first Passover we've celebrated without Rosie. Dear old Rosie. Who barely made it to her 103rd birthday. Who went away shortchanged. Not that we thought she was going to live forever, but she was determined to make it to at least 120.

Moses be blessed. Now she's not here. For the first time since 1918, the year that defined her. We laughed when she warned us about the Spanish Flu. We laughed when she warned us about another Depression. We laughed when she warned us about polio, Communism, Fascism, the Red Scare, the Yellow Scare. We didn't laugh when she warned us about the Holocaust, but we thought, c'mon Grammy, never, again, right?

So here we are, brought together by Zoom. Spending more time trying to make sure everyone is connected than on the actual ceremony itself. Mercifully short. Sticking to the basics. The four questions. Presented by me, a woman three days past 40, who's asking by default because no one younger in this family will define themselves through ritual. At least not today. Maybe tomorrow.

Which leads us back to this: Why is this night different from all other nights? The answer is self-evident. So I'm going to ask four other questions. Moses be blessed. Why didn't we believe Rosie when she said things will get worse before they get better? Why didn't we listen when we chose to laugh instead? Why didn't we cherish it instead of pushing it away? Why didn't we heed the warnings when we first had the chance to protect her?

Look, I just found the afikomen. It was in the box. Where Rosie used to hide it. I love you, Rosie. Amen. And God bless.

Option 4 (from *Voices in the Trees*)

I'm so sick of how all you people view me. Your point of view is repulsive. Look how you worry. (mockingly) "Oh, no! Oh, no!" "Where were you?" "Why were you outside for so long?"

One day you will cause a heart attack inside yourself. What will you do, dead? What good will all that ignorant worrying have done for you? You are one of those people that think if they don't worry

something bad will happen, so you constantly worry, worry, worry. Is that normal? Meanwhile, you look at me, like I'm the lunatic.

I'm the only sane one in this crazy ass family! You're all the lunatics!?

Did you see the way my shit-bag of a brother was eating those buffalo wings? Disgusting.

He is way too old to not be using napkins (points to the door handle) You notice that? I did. All stick from his filthy fingers. Who does that? Who walks through life like that at his age?

Completely unaware, completely oblivious to the entire world, cause he's stuck in his little baby bubble.

Off to his room, to sulk because he thinks he's right to call me stupid when I'm not. I'm intelligent.

You're all the ones that are ignorant. Ignorant fools!