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Koffler Centre of the Arts presents
Bad Jews
a comedy by Joshua Harmon

May 26 to June 4, 2017 | Previews May 25, 2017
Small World Music Centre, 180 Shaw Street

Directed by **Michèle Lonsdale Smith**

“There’s nothing like a death in the family to bring out the worst in people.”
– The New York Times

February 27, 2017 ... The Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the Toronto premiere of **Joshua Harmon**’s “exhilaratingly abrasive” play, ***Bad Jews*** (*Daily Telegraph*). After the death of their beloved grandfather, three cousins gather in a cramped Manhattan apartment and fight over a precious family heirloom, learning there is much more at stake than who gets what.

In one corner is Daphna Feygenbam, a “real Jew” who is volatile, self-assured, and unbending. In the other is her equally stubborn cousin Liam, a secular and entitled young man who has his “shiksa” girlfriend, Melody, in tow. Stuck in the middle is Liam’s brother, Jonah, who tries to stay out of the fray. When Liam stakes claim to a pendant their grandfather carried through the Holocaust, a fierce and hilarious brawl over family, faith, and legacy ensues. Bursting with crisp, fast-paced dialogue, ***Bad Jews*** is “delicious, nasty fun” (*New York Post*) that is as thought-provoking and poignant as it is viciously funny. Tickets for ***Bad Jews*** are now on sale online at kofflerarts.org or by phone at **647-925-0643**.

Bad Jews director **Michèle Lonsdale Smith** says, “the play is about people living and loving together, and how we often end up inflicting the deepest wounds on those closest to us. Joshua Harmon has written an incredibly truthful and funny depiction of what it means to be a member of a family divided by religion.”

Bad Jews stars performer and playwright **Rebecca Applebaum**, whose mixed-race identity brings an added layer of complexity to the pivotal role of “super Jew” Daphna. The cast includes **Kristopher Turner** (*This Life, Saving Hope*) as cousin Liam, and **Daniel Krantz** as his brother Jonah. Set and costume design is by **Mercedes Papalia**.

In addition to ten performances of ***Bad Jews***, the Koffler Centre of the Arts will present a series of associated public programs including talks and workshops.

Premiered in New York in 2012, ***Bad Jews*** has become one of the most produced plays in the United States and is one of the most frequently produced plays in the world, earning critical acclaim from London to Sydney.

“[In] Joshua Harmon’s strikingly perceptive comedy with claws, Daphna is one of the most

memorable characters to come down the pike in some time." — *Backstage*

"Equal parts brains and brawl, Joshua Harmon's play isn't a textbook comedy of hostility, but a smart, divisive conversation starter." —*New York Post*

"Superlative...scaldingly funny" —*Daily Telegraph*

"Delectably savage humor" - *The New York Times*

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Thursday, May 25, 2017: 8 PM Preview
Friday, May 26, 2017: 8 PM Opening Night
Saturday, May 27, 2017: 2 PM matinee & 8 PM evening
Sunday, May 28, 2017: 2 PM
Thursday, June 1, 2017: 8 PM
Friday, June 2, 2017: 8 PM
Saturday, June 3, 2017: 2 PM & 8 PM
Sunday, June 4, 2017: 2 PM

Ticket prices: \$30 adult | \$25 youth/senior/arts worker

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a Jewish cultural organization that presents a cross-disciplinary, contemporary arts program encouraging inquiry and exploration. We promote an inter-cultural dialogue that engages our Jewish identity with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Gallery and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Family Foundation, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and donors.

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