



- › [Art Festivals »](#)
- › [Art News »](#)
- › [Art Stops »](#)
- › [Artists »](#)
- › [Female Pioneers »](#)
- › [Public Art »](#)
- › [Theater & Film »](#)
- › [Uncategorized](#)

subscribe: [Posts](#) | [Comments](#)

### search the site

[David Watson portrays scene-stealing Teddy Roosevelt Brewster in CFABS' 'Arsenic & Old Lace'](#)

[share](#)



[this](#)

[SWFL Art & Community Theater News for March 15-21, 2016](#)

## Spotlight on 'Bad Jews' actor and FGCU theater major Daniel Cancio

[0 comments](#)

Posted | [0 comments](#)

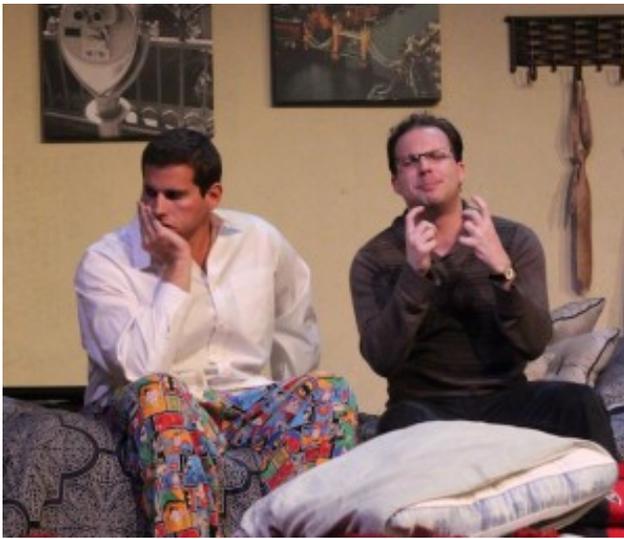


On stage now at Lab Theater is Joshua Harmon's *Bad Jews*. The play features a pitched battle between two cousins over who is most deserving of their grandfather's *chai*, a gold medallion inscribed with the Hebrew characters for life that Poppy kept hidden from the Nazis during the two years he spent in the death camps by keeping it tucked tightly under his tongue. After being liberated, Poppy used the *chai* in lieu of an engagement ring when he proposed to the cousins' grandmother. Liam now intends to give the *chai* to his girlfriend Melody when he proposes marriage to her, but Daphna



thinks that she should get the Holocaust heirloom because only she embraces Judaism and their Jewish culture and heritage.

There is another cousin, Liam's brother, Jonah, and both Liam and Daphna assume he has no interest in or right to the *chai*. Thoughtful and introspective, Jonah maintains that while he does not care who gets the *chai*, he doesn't want to be involved in the competing claims of his brother and obscenely opinionated cousin, Daphna. But Jonah epitomizes the old adage about deep waters running still, and while Daphna and Liam may consider



themselves good Jew of all.

and bad Jews, Jonah may actually be the best

Lab Theater newcomer Daniel Cancio plays the role of Jonah, and is the rock in the Upper West Side room which all of the action takes place. His yeoman effort is all the more remarkable given that he had but two weeks to learn the part after taking over for another actor who experienced a last-minute family emergency.



Even though Cancio only came off script the night of the dress rehearsal, he delivered his lines flawlessly and worked well with his cast mates, particularly Stell Ruiz, who plays Daphna, and Matt DeNoncour, who portrays Liam.

Cancio is a theater major at Florida Gulf Coast University. He has only been acting for about a year. During that time, he has performed in *Mr. Perfect*, *12 Angry Men* and *The Zoo*. After graduation, Daniel plans being the world's greatest actor – or at least convincing himself that he is. Move over Matt Damon.

**Related articles.**



- [Click here for a synopsis, play dates, times and ticket information.](#)
- [Click here for Art Southwest Florida's review of Bad Jews.](#)
- [Stella Ruiz turns in command performance as Daphna in Lab Theater's 'Bad Jews'](#)
- [Spotlight on 'Bad Jews' actress Kate Dirrigl](#)
- [Spotlight on 'Bad Jews' playwright Joshua Harmon.](#)
- [Spotlight on 'Bad Jews' director Stephanie Davis.](#)

*Posted March 14, 2016.*

## Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website





## About the Author



Tom Hall is both an amateur artist and aspiring novelist who writes art quest thrillers. He is in the final stages of completing his debut novel titled "Art Detective," a story that fictionalizes the discovery of the fabled billion-dollar Impressionist collection of Parisian art dealer Josse Bernheim-Jeune, thought by many to have perished during World War II when the collection's hiding place, Castle de Rastignac in southern France, was destroyed by the Wehrmacht in reprisal for attacks made by members of the Resistance operating in the area. A former tax attorney, Tom holds a bachelor's degree as well as both a juris doctorate and masters of laws in taxation from the University of Florida. Tom lives in Estero, Florida with his fiancée, Connie, and their four cats.

[Fort Myers Web Design](#) by [Impulse Creative Studios](#)