

October 14 - 17

On the Other Hand, We're Happy

by Daf James

TRAVOYE JOYNER
as 'Josh/Liam'

DONOVAN LOCKETT
as 'Abbie/Emma'

ALISON ORMSBY
as 'Tyler/Counselor/Kelly'

RITA CASTAGNA
Reader

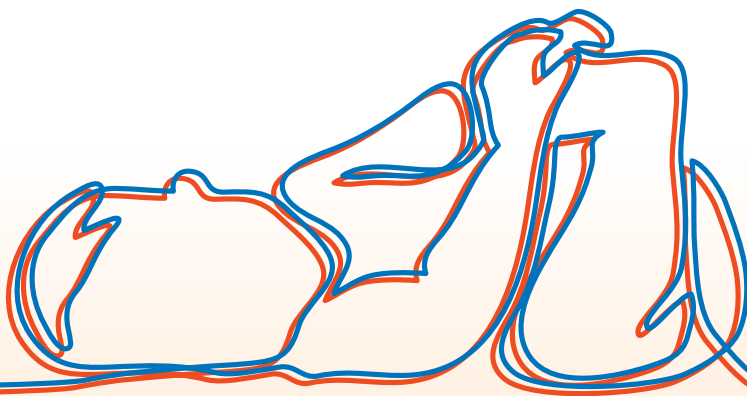
LAUREN TRACY
Production Manager

MICHAEL LONG
Film Editor

CJ MILLER
Dramaturg

Directed by Megan Schumacher

This reading is followed by a Teatime Talkback about the play on October 18 at 2pm.



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Even with as few obstacles as possible, the process of adoption can be an incredibly stressful time for all those involved. In the United States, the child's age, health, race, and other identifiers are considered so deeply that it is difficult to determine an average waiting time on the adoption list. In the United Kingdom, however, the average time from initial application to the child being placed in a home is about six months, even when considering all of those same factors. Despite being seemingly more efficient, in those six months emotions can run high. With *On the Other Hand, We're Happy*, Daf James has structured a story that is more than audience inclusive. It intensifies everything to bring the emotions of the actors on the stage into the consciousness of each audience member.

The characters of *On the Other Hand* on multiple occasions break the fourth wall, engaging with the audience, asking them their feelings and opinions on sensitive issues such as, "Would you be willing to adopt a child with Down Syndrome?" Moments such as this transform what is normally a voyeuristic experience into a more shared one. And while this stylistically may allow for a comedic break in tension, it also reminds the audience that while the play may be fiction, it is based on 100% very real, life-impacting situations that people are faced with during the process of adoption, not just the prospective parents, but the birth-parents as well. As you experience this staged reading, remain open to those interactive and vulnerable moments when a character turns to a stranger for help. One of the things the play asks is that people remain open to the fact that everyone deserves a home, especially children. All children, no matter what obstacles they may have been born with or into, deserve to have complete strangers taking their lives into consideration even if those strangers are not conjuring adoption themselves.

–CJ Miller, Dramaturg

View the *On the Other Hand, We're Happy* audience guide [HERE](#).

After viewing the reading, all are welcome to join a casual conversation about the play at the Sunday afternoon **Teatime Talkback** (Sunday, October 18 at 2pm) with the artists behind the readings.

Register for the Teatime Talkback [HERE](#).

Inis Nua's mission is to produce contemporary, provocative plays from Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales that reflect those cultures' new identities in today's world.