

Bad Gay



TITLE: Bad Gay

FORMAT: Designed as a stand-alone **feature** to be turned into a **series**

GENRE: Comedy/Drama/Musical

SUB-GENRES: Romance/Friendships/Gay

COMPARABLES: Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Fleabag, Will & Grace

SETTING: Los Angeles

LOG LINE: Teddy, an "older millennial", navigates the Hollywood trenches while struggling to come out to his loud Jewish family who thinks he's going to be the next Tom Cruise.

STATUS: In development.

WEB: <https://dreamriver.org/bad-gay/>

Writer/Producer: Micky Shiloah, mickyshiloah@gmail.com

Writer/Producer: Deborah Havener, debhavener@gmail.com

STORY & CHARACTERS:

TEDDY is gay. But he's the worst gay ever. He feels awkward around the flamboyant lifestyle that rages around him in Hollywood and is often mistaken for being a straight man by too many desperate women.

To add to his discomfort, his loud Jewish family thinks their baby is going to be a huge star any day now! Before that can happen they want to see him settle down with a nice girl. They constantly intervene with blind dates and meet-the-parents dinners.

MAGGIE is Teddy's roomie and a close confidante. She's quick to help Teddy with his lack of fashion and is a champion for him to come out to his family. Especially since that means she can quit being his "fake" girlfriend. His friends all know so why not them? For all her advice, Maggie struggles with her own relationships. She dates men. It's casual. She doesn't want to be tied down to anyone but she admits she's starting to have deeper feelings for Teddy thanks to playing the role of his fake girlfriend.

OLIVER is as straight as an arrow and Teddy's best friend. There are no judgments between these two. Like Teddy, Oliver is just another actor in Hollywood but unlike Teddy, he has a little buzz building for him and is starting to get some BIG auditions. He doesn't need anyone to tie him down now but especially JENNY, the blond chick who waitresses at the skanky club where Teddy performs his mediocre songs. But he can't seem to get her out of his mind, and during a drunken night of confessions he spills this to Teddy.

Because Teddy is a great listener Oliver mistakes that as a stronger connection. It's frightening for Oliver to have this new feeling but if he just has one more drink maybe he can tell Teddy that he feels something new for him. And also Jenny. And that hot extra on the Mentos commercial he just booked.

While Teddy juggles his myriad of Millennial relationships and his loud Jewish family he also struggles to hold down a number of drab and thankless jobs to support his Hollywood dreams. Who has time to look fabulous? In Maggie's words he will always be a bad gay but unless he makes some changes. But changing to fit in doesn't *always* turn out to be the best advice.

Bad Gay explores what it's like to be an "older Millennial" in an age of constant social media bombardment and the quest for fame and attention. Our characters will occasionally break the Fourth Wall to directly include the viewers. All of our characters in Bad Gay will learn to be truthful to who they are instead of trying to fit themselves into a mold.

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STORY

Teddy has 20 minutes to deliver an entire meal for an upper-crust party on the other side of LA. There's an extra \$300 in it if he can beat the clock. But en route he gets a number of calls:

- His manager: Your audition got moved up. Be there in 20 minutes!
- His mom: Dinner at 7 pm sharp! And bring a nice girl!
- His best friend, Oliver: Dude! I have awesome news! Call me!
- His roomie Maggie: Helloooo? Did you forget today is move-in day?

Teddy juggles the rapid-fire phone calls as he maneuvers through the city in James Bond style. He makes the delivery in 21 minutes. The waiting party grabs the food and drops a few coins into Teddy's hands.

Teddy makes it to his audition only to find that he's the shortest, least-chiseled beefcake in the room. When asked to tell the producers something about himself Teddy launches into a musical number called Nut Shell. This musical number also goes into the heads of all the beefcakes waiting in the audition room where we get a peep of their anxieties, too.



Stinging from missing his \$300 bonus and flubbing the audition, Teddy heads to his new apartment where Maggie has just finished moving the last piece of furniture by herself. To make it up to her, Teddy offers to take her out to dinner.

Maggie is bummed to learn that dinner out is really dinner with Teddy's parents ó where she will once again have to act like she's his girlfriend. They have a pointed heart-to-heart about coming out.

Dinner is the traditional disaster: His family all talks over each other, nobody can get a word in edgewise, they know Teddy is going to be the next Tom Cruise and have written to all the family back in NY about it, and they wonder why on earth Teddy hasn't popped the question to his "girlfriend" Maggie. A brief musical number ensues during dinner. It stops abruptly when Teddy's mother asks: So when are you two getting married?

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That night, Teddy hits the skanky club where he's allowed to perform a few original tunes for an unappreciative crowd of old drunks. As always, his best friend Oliver is there to support and cheer him on ó even though Oliver is also there to get the waitress, Jenny, to notice him.



Oliver has news: He booked a commercial. He wants Teddy to be the first to know. Teddy is elated, but Oliver sees right through it. He knows Teddy hasn't booked anything in several long months and it's starting to take its toll.

Teddy and Oliver share a drink and a few secrets. Oliver has a painful crush on Jenny, the waitress. Teddy hasn't come out to his parents and Maggie is pissed about it. But he also has developed strong feelings for Maggie. If only she were a guy. Or he was a girl. As the two indulge in drinks and feelings Oliver realizes that nobody in the world ever really listens to him but Teddy. And now he kind of feels something for him, too. These little revelations are told through a musical number that allows us to go into their private thoughts.

It also brings in revelations of Maggie ó who, despite dating a plethora of men ó is falling for Teddy. While these three friends wrestle with their own dramas, Jenny turns into a 4th friend who also has feelings for Teddy.

Despite Maggie's growing feelings for Teddy she is hell-bent on turning him into a proper gay so he can find someone and play in the reindeer games with the other gay men. But Teddy can't seem to fit in no matter how much sparkling fashion he's draped in. He's just not flamboyant enough for the club circuit.

And if his personal life is on a downward trend his acting career is worse. His humiliating acting gigs will guarantee him work as a giant dressed-up Barney the Dinosaur or the occasional commercial for laxatives.

While Teddy spins in a spiral downward, Oliver's star begins to shine. More and more, Oliver leans towards Teddy for a sympathetic ear. If he can just get drunk enough he'll share



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his growing feelings for Teddy with him. Throughout our pilot episode we will see our older Millennialsö come to some realizations about their goals and relationships. Teddy will come to an acceptance about his acting career, being honest with his family and to himself.

Maggie will accept that her most intimate and emotional relationship in her life might be with a gay man. She will accept the limitations that may come with it.

Oliver will enjoy his first taste of success and watch his social media numbers skyrocket, but he will still be torn between having something real with Teddy and Jenny.

Jenny, the overlooked waitress, will briefly consider that Oliver is feeling just as rejected as she is.

Of course this will open a whole new can of worms for our following episodes.



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