

He's Gad to be home

Tony-nominated 'Book of Mormon' star makes room for baby in Riverside Boulevard rental

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Josh Gad was in for quite a climate shock when he moved from his West Hollywood house to Manhattan to star in Broadway's "The Book of Mormon." The South Florida native — with his actress wife, Ida, and newborn daughter, Ava — relocated in January to a one-bedroom rental in the Rushmore building on Riverside Boulevard.

"That first day, I was so terrified because we're right by the water, and it was so unbelievably cold because of the wind," Gad recalls. "I was like, 'I don't think I'm going to survive the winter.'"

But he's actually been acclimating quite nicely.



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Gad in his baby Ava's crib.

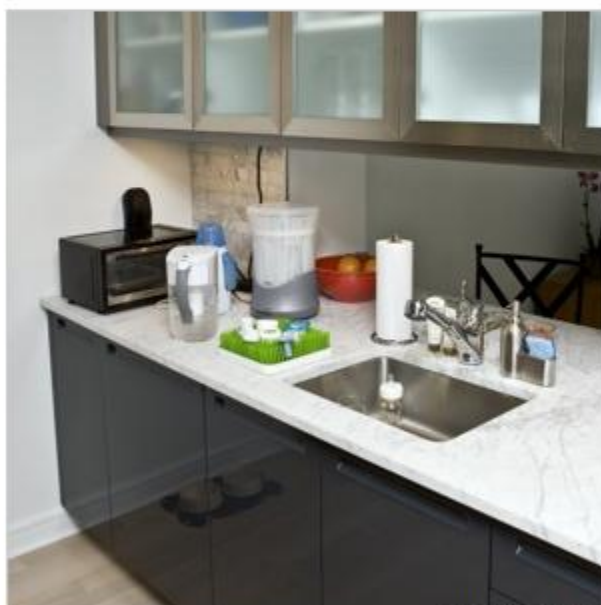
Though he lives in a star-studded building (not long after Gad moved in, [Robin Williams](#) rented at the Rushmore and Alex Rodriguez bought a unit), the Tony-nominated Gad, 30, has opted for family function over flash in his apartment. Beyond the plush, brown leather couch and simple, white modern lamp (both from Ethan Allen), the pad is largely about Ava's needs.

"We're going for a very postmodern-baby feel here," he says of the minimally decorated, approximately 800-square-foot home punctuated by baby-centric pieces, like the Laugh & Learn Jumperoo in the living room.

"It's the most artistic piece in the place," Gad says pointing out the colorful, multifaceted contraption. "I kind of feel like if I had the skill set to invent one for adults, I'd be a multimillionaire. If you could create one with a laptop and maybe instead of a cushion, a toilet — and maybe a TV where the mirror is, and a manicure/pedicure station, you'd have it all."

Ava faces her own age-related challenges with the jumper. "She can't quite reach the ground yet, but that's the goal," Gad says. "She kind of feels like we're mocking her because she just hangs right now."

Ava can take comfort, though, in her posh Summer Infant bath. "The baby gets a Jacuzzi, and I get a standard shower," he says. "It's a little bit unfair. The baby seems to be winning in all matters of household living."



ZANDY MANGOLD

INSIDE GAD'S RAD PAD: The focus of Josh Gad's Upper West Side rental is his infant daughter, Ava. "The baby seems to be winning in all matters of household living," says Gad, who enjoys spending time in his nicely appointed kitchen.

There is at least one room where Gad can take refuge. "My kitchen is my home away from home," he says of the sleek space that opens onto the living room and is just a few steps from the adjacent bedroom.

Gad enjoys filling the Sub-Zero refrigerator without even leaving the house. "I'm fascinated by the fact that you can actually order Whole Foods online, because in LA you drive everywhere to get your food."

Still, there are certain meals that get him out of the house. "Breakfast is one of those essential meals in my life, and I kind of love and crave going to Sarabeth's for their amazing goat cheese omelet," Gad says.

Dinners, though, are mostly spent around the cozy kitchen bar. "I have a pretty amazing wife," Gad says. "She's my high school sweetheart who I never went to high school with, and she somehow finds time to cook dinner every night."

The couple don't just live together, they also act together. "We just had an amazing opportunity to work together on a Web series with BBC and Mydamnchannel.com," Gad says of the series "Gigi: Almost American," on which he plays a clueless Eastern-European foreigner who falls for an American woman, played by Ida.

The pair, who recently celebrated their third anniversary, met in Los Angeles while playing a married couple (Leon and Mrs. Trotsky) in a production of David Ives' "All in the Timing" many years ago.



Gad in his baby Ava's crib.

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"So we were married long before we were married," Gad says.

Walking into the bedroom, Gad jokingly laments, "This is where the magic doesn't happen anymore."

Luckily, he's found an outlet for his extra energy. "She and I wrestle every day," Gad says, referring to his dog, Didi, a mixed breed that looks like a mini Labrador.

"I think some poor poodle was raped by a Labrador, and Didi's the result," Gad observes, rolling around on the bed with the cute mutt.

And Gad has plenty of ways to occupy himself in his building, as well.

"We're really blessed to be living here," he says of the Rushmore. "The gym is awesome, they have a sauna and a swimming pool."

Other perks include the Kidville indoor playground. "They have a playroom for kids, although my daughter is 5 months old, so she just kind of sits there and looks around at every child playing and is like, 'I can't wait until I develop those skills to move a block with my hand,'" Gad says.

His favorite hangout is the waiting area in the health club, where a coffee machine offers a choice of many instant flavors. "It's a great place to write, sit on the couch, get some coffee," Gad says. "I'm working on a couple of scripts now."



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Between sips, he ponders his chances of winning a Tony Award for his hilarious role in "The Book of Mormon."

"Pound for pound, I'm bigger than all the nominees," he says of a field that includes his "Mormon" co-star Andrew Rannells. "So if it was a boxing match, I'd have a good shot."

Josh Gad's favorite things

- * The kitchen and its Sub-Zero refrigerator
- * The modern lamp
- * The leather couch
- * A bookshelf with Ava's toys and books
- * The flat-screen TV
- * Building amenities — including the gym, the Kidville indoor playground and the coffeemaker
- * Ava's Laugh & Learn Jumperoo