

Jewish Scene

connecting jewish communities

July/August 2011

FAMILY TIES

Generation to Generation

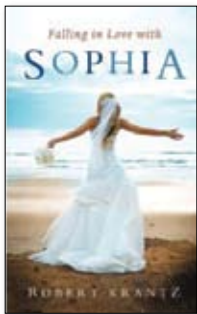
A SLICE OF DELTA LIFE

*The Mississippi Delta
Through Word, Song
and Art*

FROZEN TREATS BEAT THE HEAT

*Travel the City to
Choose Your Favorite*

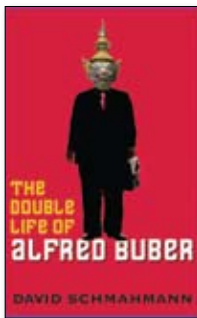
BOOKS



Falling in Love with Sophia

Robert Krantz :: Ellinas Multimedia

Falling in Love with Sophia is a love story of soul mates and is the first novel by actor and screenwriter Robert Krantz, who owns his own film production and distribution company, Ellinas Multimedia. Krantz wrote, produced and acted in the movie, "Do You Wanna Dance?" Genuine and heartfelt, **Falling in Love with Sophia** is what I want to see on the big screen.



The Double Life of Alfred Buber

David Schmahmann :: The Permanent Press

The Double Life of Alfred Buber is a fictional narrative and third novel by author and lawyer David Schmahmann. The well-respected Alfred leads a secret life until his double lives cross, and he can't distinguish fantasy from reality. The premise of the book is a man struggling to come to terms with what it means to be real. **The Double Life of Alfred Buber** is a non-politically correct story in the realm of the politically correct that is full of abnormalities and comic relief.

MUSIC



So Far

Nadav Remez :: BJU Records

Melodic, harmonic and rhythmic is Israeli guitarist and composer Nadav Remez's album, **So Far**. In a culmination of modern jazz, alternative rock and Jewish folk music, the debut album includes eight illuminating tracks featuring Remez and his band of Shai Maestro, James Wylie, Steve Brickman, Avri Borochoy, Ziv Ravitz and special guest Itamar Borochoy. A highlight of the album is a musing original version of the traditional Jewish song "Lecha Dodi."

FILM



Barney's Version

Richard J. Lewis :: Universal/Uk Zoom

Barney's Version is directed by Richard Lewis and based on the novel by Mordecai Richler about a man's life from a Jewish, upper-middle class community in Montreal, Canada. The protagonist, free-spirited Barney, is played by Golden Globe winner Paul Giamatti, whose character's warm, wise and witty sense of self ultimately wins over his selfishness with a side of narcissism by the climax of the film. **Barney's Version** is a journey of the life of Richler's most intriguing character, Barney Panofsky.

Q&A

Q&A with "Barney's Version" screenwriter Michel Konyves

Jewish Scene: Hi, Michel. Welcome to Jewish Scene.

Michel Konyves: Thank you.

Jewish Scene: Tell us about the film "Barney's Version."

Michel Konyves: "Barney's Version" is adapted from my personal favorite Mordecai Richler novel, "Barney's Version."

Jewish Scene: Explain how Judaism surrounds the film?

Michel Konyves: Many of the characters are Jewish. These are the people Mordecai knew and wrote about; much in the same way Zuckerman novels and Philip Roth or Woody Allen films are Jewish.

Jewish Scene: What is the central theme of the film?

Michel Konyves: It's the story of a man's life. It's a journey and primarily a love story at its core, even though so many other things happen in the film.

Jewish Scene: What are your Jewish influences on the film?

Michel Konyves: Well, I'm Jewish. I grew up in a Jewish section of Montreal, went to Jewish school, so I think that qualifies me as 'Jewish enough.' I think the main influence was in knowing what a lot of these people were like. How they talk helped in the writing process.

Jewish Scene: Explain the inner-workings of the protagonist Barney. (Played by Paul Giamatti)

Michel Konyves: Barney is somewhat of a child to me in the way that he leads with his primary emotional needs and reactions and is only brought to contemplate those actions after the fact. However, even though he may do a fair amount of questionable things, his primary focus, that being his love for Miriam, is true and unmovable. Therefore, he fits into what I think about most protagonists, which is you can feature someone that is anything we perceive as questionable in character; and if you give them something they love more than themselves, you will like them. We all like characters who are clear on the object of the quest that will define their lives and will always place that object/person above themselves.

Jewish Scene: This film began its humble beginnings as a book. (By Mordecai Richler) How did it evolve into a screenplay?

Michel Konyves: The book was one of my favorites of all time. I found out that Robert Lantos held the rights and managed to get a meeting with him through a mutual contact. I then wrote Robert a 25-page proposal on how I envisioned the film working. Unbeknownst to me at the time, Robert had gone through four writers and numerous drafts spanning