

# Barney Glazer's 'HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE'

Hollywood Temple Beth El will offer bar mitzvah and bat mitzvah classes for adults in an intensive, two-semester course of study beginning the last week of October. Among those who have expressed interest thus far are: a mother and her daughter, and a woman in her 80s. Rabbi Joseph Wagner, senior rabbi at the Temple,

has announced that Rabbi Michael Menitoff, associate rabbi and a graduate last June of the Jewish Theological Seminary in N.Y., will conduct the classes for men and women who plan a bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah ceremony.

It is believed that this is the first class of its kind in the world, unless readers

wish to correct this assumption.

For uninformed Jewish adults - and there are many - bar mitzvah is a practice hundreds of years old of training Jewish boys in their heritage and religion. Classes usually being at age nine and end at age 13 with a recital of knowledge and a religious ceremony.

Bat mitzvah developed within the past 30 years and is primarily an offshoot of the Reform and Conservative branches of Judaism.

Robert M. Weitman, a practicing orthodox Jew, and a handsome, gracious and knowledgeable man, once headed MGM Studios, then moved to Columbia as its vice president in charge of production. Recently, Weitman announced that he will leave that post at the end of the year and enter independent production of motion pictures, exclusively with Columbia.

Earlier, Mike Frankovich, Weitman's predecessor as head of Columbia on the West Coast, had followed the

same action. Mike has since produced many major Columbia films.

Weitman announced he's reading many scripts and soon expects to announce his first picture. Columbia's president, Leo Jaffe, regretted the move but admitted that the changing nature of motion picture production leans towards the independent producer, rather than the studio chief, assuming control over production.

Jaffe and Stanley Schneider, executive vice president, will preside over Columbia's independent productions. Toward that end, for the first time in the studio's history, Columbia will rent out stage and office space on its Hollywood lot.

Columbia's founder, the late Harry Cohn, personally supervised all aspects of production until his death. The new trend is a far cry from that state of events. Cohn controlled the works at Columbia with an iron hand that won him the title of "King Cohn" in Associated Press writer Bob Thomas' book of the same name. The recent departure of Jack L. Warner from the Warner Bros. lot faded out still another Big Boss in this ever-changing industry.

Weitman started his career as N.Y. theatre manager. Those who know him predict that his independently produced films will play many of those theatres as Oscar winners.

Three Jews - George Segal, Richard Benjamin and Dan Greenberg - are having fun shooting a low-budget (would you believe \$200?) movie in N.Y. right off the top of their heads.

Greenberg, it may be remembered, wrote a book titled, "How to Be a Jewish Mother," which may be a difficult status for male

readers to attain, especially if they've never even qualified as a Jewish father.

Titled "Alfred Rider," the mini film is a riberoo of "Easy Rider," the film depicting young men riding around the country searching for the U.S.A.

Benjamin is the itinerant pal; Greenberg, Capt. America; and Segal is Billy.

If the film cost only \$200, let's hope you folks won't have to wheel around the country searching for it.

David Rose quit "Bonanza" but will stay on with the "Red Skelton Show." Rose has been with Red beginning with the comedian's 1947 radio start. He has done 400 scores for "Bonanza" but now needs the time to do concerts and movie scores.

On Nov. 19, Barbra Streisand will present the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews to Leo Jaffe, president of Columbia Pic-

tures, at a luncheon in the N.Y. Waldorf-Astoria.

Guess how you pronounce Topal, the Israel actor. Like Tepel.

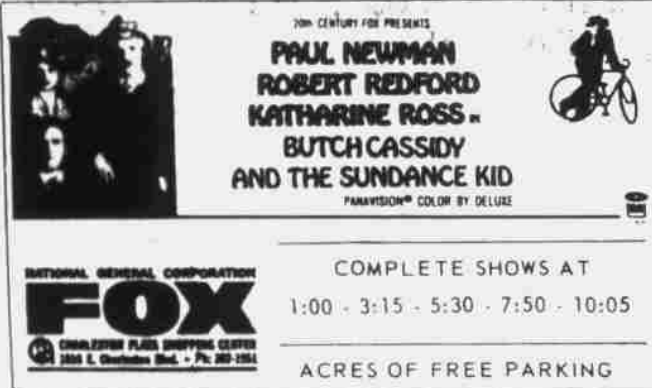
That figures. Topal won the film contract to play Tevya in "Fiddler on the Roof," which turned out to be the tepel at the end of his rainlow.

I don't know who Rose B. Kaufman is but someone clipped her comments in an Editor's Mailbag section and they merit repetition. Although she doesn't mention sex or violence I assume that Rose aims pointedly at them with the following remarks:

"Making money is important to some individuals in the motion picture industry. But each of us has a responsibility of contributing toward leaving this a better world for youth and all mankind."

God bless Rose B. Kaufman.

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