



## 'Bruno' raises stakes with cheeky Jewish humor

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Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

Universal Pictures' highly anticipated "mockumentary," *Bruno*, opened July 10, with a story line that is as hilarious as it is controversial. But whether Sacha Baron Cohen's latest comic opus is perceived to be provocative or offensive, homophobic or passionately pro-tolerance, this saga of a gay fashionista who aspires to become the "biggest Austrian superstar since Hitler" has some of the most sidesplitting Jewish moments of any movie of the year. Here are some favorites:

- When Bruno fails to achieve uber-fame by solving the problems in Darfur, he comforts himself with the knowledge that "luckily, there is still one sh\*\*hole left to fix in the world: The Middle East" (or "Middle Earth," as he calls it). But he doesn't make many friends while traipsing in a black hat, *payot*, and a Speedo through a religious area in Israel, where enraged residents chase him out of the 'hood.

- Bruno conducts dialogues between Israeli and Arab leaders, including an ex-Mossad chief and a former Palestinian minister. Alas, he confuses "hummus" with "Hamas."

- Bruno decides the best way to become famous is to be kidnapped by Muslim extremists, and so visits a leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade in a refugee camp in Lebanon. "I want the best guys in the business. Al Qaida is so 2001," he tells the man. "Your king Osama looks like a dirty wizard or a homeless Santa Claus," he adds. Needless to say, Bruno gets kicked out rather than kidnapped.

- Bruno and his manager, desperate to land celebrity interviews, consult a chart they have made of top actors. There is Wilhelm Schmidt (Will Smith), Adolf Pittler (Brad Pitt), and lastly, a man Bruno calls "Der Fuhrer." The camera pans to reveal the photograph of said star: Mel Gibson.

- After Congressman Ron Paul pronounces Bruno a "queer," the fashionista laments, "I couldn't even *shutup* RuPaul [sic]. How am I going to get famous?"

### FRIDAY, Aug. 7

Har Sinai Temple, Hopewell Township, offers a **Bring a Blanket to Shabbat family picnic** at 5:30 p.m., followed by an outdoor Shabbat service at 6:30. RSVP to 609-730-8100.

Kehilat HaNahar, the Little Shul by the River, New Hope, Pa., hosts **Bless Your Pets** at 7 p.m. for owners and their leashed pets, with a service led by Rabbi Sandy Roth. Attendees are encouraged to bring a food pantry donation for the Delaware Valley Interfaith Council's food pantry. Call 215-862-1912 or visit [www.kehilathanahar.org](http://www.kehilathanahar.org).

Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, offers a **kabalat Shabbat Mazal Tov service** featuring musical accompaniment at 7:30 p.m. Those celebrating July and August birthdays and anniversaries will also be recognized. Call 609-896-4977 or visit [www.adathisraelnj.org](http://www.adathisraelnj.org).

### FRIDAY, Aug. 14

The **Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan** perform at a concert and dinner at Congregation Beth El, Yardley, Pa., at 5:15 p.m. Services will follow the concert at 7:45. Dinner costs \$10 with a maximum of \$40 per family. RSVP by Aug. 7 to 215-493-1707, ext. 4.

Beth El Synagogue of East Windsor holds an **open house and Shabbat under the Stars** at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dairy dinner and sundae bar. The dinner costs \$13, \$8 for children ages 12 and under. RSVP to 609-443-4454.

Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown,

Pa., holds its annual family barbecue dinner and **Shabbat Under the Stars** at 6; services start at 7:45. Reservations for the dinner are required. Call 215-579-2200.

### TUESDAY, Aug. 18

Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, sponsors an **American Red Cross blood drive** 2-8 p.m. To schedule an appointment, log on to [www.pleasegiveblood.org/donate](http://www.pleasegiveblood.org/donate) and use the Sponsor Code 8138 or call 609-896-4977.

### FRIDAY, Aug. 28

Har Sinai Temple, Hopewell Township, holds a **Shabbat Under the Stars service** at 6:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, Aug. 30

Congregation Beth El, Yardley, Pa., hosts an **end-of-summer bash** at 4 p.m. The fee is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children ages five-13. For reservations, call 215-493-1707, ext. 4. To purchase raffle tickets, visit [www.bethel-yardley.org](http://www.bethel-yardley.org).

Har Sinai Temple, Hopewell Township, holds a **Renaissance Club ethnic dinner** at Basilleaf Vietnamese Restaurant in Newtown, Pa. at 5 p.m.

### TUESDAY, Sept. 1

Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown, Pa., hosts a **United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism forum on "successful meetings"** at 7:30 p.m. For reservations, call 215-579-2200.

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