

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



COLLABORATING: Shyne wants to work with others

Rapper wants to shine with young Israelis

REFORMED rapper Shyne is eager to collaborate with artists ranging from young Israeli musicians to hip hop moguls Kanye West and Jay-Z.

After serving eight years in prison for a nightclub shooting, the former protege of Sean Combs is now living in Jerusalem as an ultra-Orthodox Jew.

Born Jamaal Michael Barrow, Shyne also now goes by the Hebrew name Moshe Levi Ben-David.

At a screening of two new short films – *The Original and Roller Song* – Shyne said he has five albums forthcoming that have been deeply influenced by his atypical spiritual journey.

"I am not ashamed of the mistakes I have made. I'm not ashamed of where I was in order to get to where I am," he said.

Since arriving in September, Shyne has met Israel cabinet ministers, studied Torah and promoted Israel's relationship with Belize – where his father is prime minister.

Sue explores classic Holocaust film

ENGLISH literature professor Sue Vice dissects Claude Lanzmann's epic 1985 film *Shoah* in a new book.

BFI Film Classics: *Shoah* (Palgrave Macmillan) explores the film both as cinema and as an example of Holocaust representation.

Vice, who works at the University of Sheffield, follows Lanzmann's declaration that "*Shoah* is a fight against generalities" in emphasising the importance of the detail

in both dialogue and filmic technique.

Vice uses some of the film's interviews – including that with Abraham Bomba, a barber at the death camp Treblinka, and one secretly filmed with guard Franz Suchomel – to explore the background to the film, the difficulties in its financing and production and the long process of editing that led to Lanzmann's realisation that "the subject of my film is death itself, death and not survival".

TV JEWS

LIVERPOOL-BORN actor Jason Isaacs stars as an American soldier in powerful drama *Green Zone*, which debuts today on Sky Premiere.

Set in Baghdad, the film portrays life inside Iraq's Green Zone.

How the IRA traded intelligence with Nazi Germany is revealed in *Nazi Collaborators* on Tuesday (9pm) on the Yesterday Channel.

The rise of King David to the throne of Israel is discussed in *Battles BC* on Tuesday (10pm) on the History Channel.

Gorgeous pop star Rachel Stevens' 2008 appearance on music quiz *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* is repeated on Wednesday (10pm) on BBC2.

Ubinz Twinz answer the call of the Wild

BY SIMON YAFFE

DERAILOADED is a metaphor for someone's mind or life going off the tracks.

So it was quite apt that director Josh Rubin and producer Jeremy Lubin named their documentary *Derailroded*.

It tells the story of the paranoid-schizophrenic Larry 'Wild Man' Fischer and his incongruous encounters in the music business.

Institutionalised at 16 after attacking his mother with a knife, Fischer wandered the streets of Los Angeles singing his totally unique brand of songs for 10 cents to passers-by.

He was even branded The Godfather of Punk. But Josh admits it was hard to deal with Fischer while making the film.

He told the *Jewish Telegraph* from his Venice Beach, California, home: "He is a manic depressive, paranoid and schizophrenic.

"Combine all those elements together and, well, you are going to get a not-so-happy dude some of the time."

Discovered by music legend Frank Zappa, with whom he cut his first album, Fischer, who is Jewish, became an underground club and concert favourite, earning him the title of 'godfather of outsider music'.

Over the course of 40 years, he appeared on national television, was the subject of his own comic book, became the first artist on Rhino Records and sang a duet with the Rosemary Clooney.

The idea to make a documentary on Fischer came about through Josh and his friend Jeremy.

Josh, 33, recalled: "Jeremy had been eating a chicken wrap in LA when he was

Oversized grimy hands and a mop of unwashed hair

approached by Larry Green, who worked for the DJ Howard Stern. But he wasn't alone.

"Behind him stood a large brooding fellow with oversized grimy hands, a mop of unwashed hair, and, well, he was just big and dirty, all the way around."

Green introduced the unkempt hulk to Jeremy as the world-famous Wild Man Fischer.

"He's straight from the 1960s," Green said. "He's a legend – this man is a genius."

Josh added: "After Jeremy got home and told me about his meeting, we found out that every single thing Green had said about the man was true.

"We read something on the internet about Fisher being an acid casualty, living in an underpass and being discovered by Frank Zappa, so I had to know more.

"Was it all true? Even if it wasn't, I could tell that there was more going on here than just a strange homeless-looking man."

The next day Josh and Jeremy went on a hunt for *An Evening with Wild Man Fischer*.



GO WILD: The Ubinz Twinz, Josh Rubin, left, and Jeremy Lubin, flank Wild Man Fischer

Josh said: "We found it and we listened and we listened. It was more than just an ordinary listening experience. It was a conversion, an epiphany and it changed me. From the first moment I heard the song *Merry Go Round* I knew I'd stumbled upon something extraordinary.

"Hearing about Larry's lifelong struggle with mental illness and listening to that pain being complemented by an omnipresent sense of optimism and elation touched me deeply.

"It was heartbreaking, it was real, it was surreal, it was funny, it was art and, most of all, it was the most honest example of self-expression I had ever heard in my life."

The duo hastily set up Ubinz Twinz Productions and were intent on making a film about Fischer – before even meeting him. But Green arranged a meeting between Josh, Jeremy and Fischer, who was keen on the pals' idea.

Josh, who grew up in a Conservative Jewish home in Detroit, Michigan, first met Jeremy on the back seat of their Jewish day school's school van.

He remembered: "It was 1990, and the album *Jeremy* forced me to listen to was *Grip It! On That Other Level* by the controversial Houston rap outfit The Geto Boys.

"Then we started our own rap group, B.A.R.F. People didn't really think it was weird that two Jewish kids started their own rap group because we both went to Hebrew school and all our friends were Jewish.

"We were kind of crazy back then so it was kind of expected for us to be into something weird like hardcore rap."

Josh later went to read film at New York University and was living in New York City writing screenplays and trying to figure out what to do with his life when the Fischer project came along.

He and Jeremy had been looking to work on a film project for some time.

"I always knew that I wanted to do something meaningful," Josh said. "Something with emotion and substance and filmmaking is a medium that offers me that emotional outlet."

Archival footage from Fischer's early days, including his TV and club performances, trace his life from

neglected child to tortured genius in the film.

Josh and Jeremy also visited him at his home and followed him on the streets.

And they talked to those who had witnessed his erratic behaviour, including Frank Zappa's wife Gail, Weird Al Yankovic, Devo's Mark Mothersbaugh and soul legend Solomon Burke.

Josh said: "If you talk with Larry, you quickly come to realise that his whole approach to life is like a jigsaw puzzle of sorts. He spends half his time putting the pieces together, and he spends the other half figuring out ways to take them apart.

"The puzzle is the jagged, damaged, beat-up cardboard cut-out of his musical career.

"On top of being Wild Man Fischer, he is also Lawrence Wayne Fischer, manic-

Expected of us to be into something as weird as rap

depressive paranoid-schizophrenic.

"It is because of his illness that Larry has spent most of the last 30 years of his life trying to ward off any hint of professionalism due to the fact that his mind simply cannot cope with the unforgiving dog-eat-dog world of the music business.

"Larry can not handle the harsh realities of life."

Fischer, aware that he had been duped out of cash during his career, was at first sceptical about Josh and Jeremy's project. But he came round to the idea and signed a contract – after a year of persuasion.

"I think the film is done with sensitivity, but I guess that is up to the viewer to decide," Josh explained.

"I do think we portrayed Larry and his condition in an honest light."

Josh is currently finishing work on a rock musical.

■ Watch the trailer at tinyurl.com/6kxyser and buy the DVD at tinyurl.com/5sr2zgw

Garfield on the rise

JEWISH actor Andrew Garfield has been nominated for this year's BAFTA Rising Star award.

The 27-year-old was recently nominated for a Golden Globe award for best supporting actor for his role in *The Social Network* and he has landed the lead role of Peter Parker in the next *Spider-Man* movie, due out next year.

Garfield is up against former Bond girl Gemma Arterton, *Inception* star Tom Hardy, American actress Emma Stone and *Kick-Ass*' Aaron Johnson.

The winner will be announced at the BAFTA awards on Sunday, February 13.

Live from London

CHASSIDIC reggae sensation Matisyahu has released a special live EP, recorded in London.

The four-tracks recorded at Dean Street Studios can be downloaded for £1.99 only from bit.ly/matis-store.

The EP features the tracks *One Day*, *On Nature*, *I Will Be Light* and *Thunder*.

Network is winner

AARON SORKIN'S *The Social Network* swept the board at the National Society of Film Critics Awards.

The film, about the origins of Facebook, was named best picture, while Sorkin claimed best screenplay. Jessie Eisenberg was named best actor for his portrayal of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and David Fincher was named best director. Israeli-born actress Natalie Portman was named best actress for her role as a ballerina in the forthcoming *Black Swan*.

■ THE new *James Bond* film is to be directed by Sam Mendes. The 23rd Bond film will again star Daniel Craig as 007.