



Parents' Choice Awards : DVDs : DVD



Mama Doni's Jewish Holiday Party

Spring 2014 DVD

Ages: Infant - 12 yrs.

Producer: [Mama Doni Productions](#)

DVD Price: \$17.99



SHARE THIS:

Review :

Mama Doni's Jewish Holiday Party DVD offers a 65-minute program filled with music, cooking segments, and educational sequences to teach young viewers about Chanukah, Passover and Shabbat traditions. According to a bonus feature, Mama Doni is actually Doni Zasloff and she has a degree in Educational Theatre. While *Mama Doni's Jewish Holiday Party* is her first DVD, she's previously released CDs and has toured the country performing songs that celebrate Jewish culture, and this product also includes a bonus CD soundtrack featuring 13 of her songs.

This DVD plays like a cultural variety show and includes three episodes, each devoted to exploring a particular Jewish holiday. Production elements aren't super-flashy but they're well shot and nicely edited, and sequences feature educational vignettes with Mama Doni addressing viewers directly by talking to the camera; video clips of kids preparing for and attending holiday gatherings; music videos; and cooking segments. In the Passover episode, she explains the symbolism of kosher foods on the menu and how to set the table for the ritual feast called a Seder. In the Chanukah episode, she sings some really upbeat folk-rock songs; explains the origins of the holiday; and tells little viewers the rules of the Dreidel game. Doni also published a cookbook, which is shown at the start of the cooking sequences, and she does a credible job hosting these demonstrations, which range from potato pancakes known as latkes to a recipe for pizza made with matzo crackers.

Program information says *Mama Doni's Jewish Holiday Party* is suggested for children up to 12 years old and if there's any drawback to this product, it's that some of the content feels uneven because of its wide target age range. A few of the sequences and all of the video clips feature kids in the kindergarten range and feels appropriate for preschoolers. No teenager is patient enough to sit through a music video about preschoolers sweeping the house before a party. But much of the educational content in the Passover program seems to be geared towards teen viewers and Doni's delivery is lightning-fast so the messages will probably fly over the heads of the little kids. Also, the recipes suggested in the cooking segments require lots of adult supervision.

Ultimately, this may be a program for the whole family but the segments can't be comprehended and enjoyed by the whole family *at the same time*.

Still, *Mama Doni Jewish Holiday Party* is a good choice for the home or the classroom to learn about Jewish holiday celebrations.

Gina Catanzarite ©2014 Parents' Choice

Gina Catanzarite is a writer, teacher, and TV producer with 8 Emmy awards and 20 Emmy nominations to her credit. She has worked in the television industry since 1987, producing children's programming, informational features and documentaries. Catanzarite lives in Pittsburgh with her husband and two sons.

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

Look for this product at:

Mama Doni Productions
<http://www.mamadoni.com>

Amazon.com
<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00DY9FDUG/parentschoice-20>